Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you happy with the interim final rule issued by DHS governing federalization of CNMI immigration?

Let your voice be heard!
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6

As of November 3, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Pakistan Blast
A suicide bomb killed 35 people near Pakistan's military headquarters Monday.
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Vampires have risen to new heights as the "Twilight" franchise, TV's "True Blood" and other incarnations put the bite on viewers.
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Sewer system: A looming disaster

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

More than the electricity concern, the status of the island's decades-old sewer system is another looming disaster that has the real potential of developing into a public health emergency.

SAIPAN'S SEWER SYSTEM
- 2 wastewater treatment plants
- 3,000 sewer customers
- 78 miles of sewer force, gravity mains
- 46 sewer lift/pump stations

Malae

Abe Utu Malae, assistant executive director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI's focus on power generation when the engines failed last

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
In this file photo, crewmembers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. work on a broken sewer pump across the road from Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

2nd suspect in pawnshop robbery falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Quitano

Police arrested an ex-convict who was allegedly one of two men who staged a recent daylight robbery at a pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa that injured

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'Not enough education on four initiatives'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While voters know by now who to vote for governor, senator, representative or mayor, many of these voters have yet to understand or know more about the three legislative initiatives seeking to amend the CNMI Constitution and one popular initiative included in the ballots for Saturday's general elections.

These initiatives are on the reverse or back side of each ballot.

See NOT on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Frank Camacho, right, an election clerk at the Commonwealth Election Commission, explains the process of absentee voting to Manny Lazaro, 23, left, who was set to leave for Guam last night. Lazaro, who won't be able to vote during the general elections on Saturday, and many other voters say they are not familiar with the four initiatives that are also on the ballot.

FOUR INITIATIVES

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Legislative Initiative 16-11

House Legislative Initiative 16-11 proposes to amend Article III, Section 9(a) of the CNMI Constitution to mandate the passage of a balanced budget every year, and to prohibit the withdrawals of any funds from the general fund without an appropria-

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Local

FOR EDUCATION MONTH CELEBRATION:

David, Sablan, Gabionza are Hopwood honorees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School named three employees as its outstanding personnel for the year, and the three will represent the Home of Hilitai in the islandwide search for the Public School System's educational awardees this month.

Wilma Hofschneider-David was selected as the school's Teacher of the Year nominee while Alexander C. Sablan was hailed Teacher Aide of the Year, along with Ronald Gabionza, Hopwood's Support Staff of the Year.

Hofschneider-David is a reading teacher for 7th and 8th grades. She also assists students to better perform in mathematics and standard-based assessment tests either after school hours or during weekends.

She has been with public schools since 2004, starting out as a Language Arts teacher.

"I am really honored," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that everyone in Hopwood's faculty deserve to get the recognition for their hard work and commitment to their profession.

This mother of four kids dedicated her achievement to her family for supporting her in her career. "I owe a lot to my family, who support me whenever I need to lend extra time to assist my students."

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Hopwood Junior High School's outstanding education awardees pose with their school administrators at the campus yesterday. From left are vice principal for student services and discipline Felisa Henry, Teacher of the Year Wilma Hofschneider-David, principal Jonas Barcinas, Teacher Aide of the Year Alexander Sablan, and vice principal for curriculum Natalie Hill.

Principal Jonas Barcinas described Hofschneider-David as very humble, down to earth, multi-talented, and academically inclined.

Hofschneider-David says that, as leaders and educators, "we need to be strong to guide and provide a conducive environment for all our students to learn."

She told *Saipan Tribune* it is her vision to see all her students graduate from Hopwood and be successful in their future endeavors. She believes that, like other professions, one has to have the "heart" for their job to become effective.

Teacher Aide of the Year

Alexander C. Sablan, 22, is Hopwood's nominee for Teacher Aide of the Year. He has been with the school for three years and is assigned to handle students with special needs.

Sablan described his students as talented and smart and deserving of the same quality learning as "normal" kids.

He is described by his colleagues as someone who has a passion for learning and the enthusiasm to expand his horizon to understand and be more competent in dealing with students with special needs.

Support Staff of the Year

Ronald Gabionza, hailed as Hopwood's Support Staff of the Year, was unanimously selected by his colleagues because of his strong work ethic and excellent job performance throughout the years. Gabionza has been with Hopwood for nine years now.

Principal Barcinas described Gabionza as "very committed and dedicated to his job."

"He is a very dedicated person who spends his valuable time away from his family or home obligations to make sure that the school is ready for operation the next day," Barcinas said.

He is optimistic that this year's nominees will make it to the overall educational awards.

Hopwood is home to over a thousand students every year.

Politicians do favors for others.

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In these times of change, the CNMI needs lawmakers, not politicians.

VOTE for TINA SABLAN for Senate!

☑ #5 on the ballot

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Fitial revises health emergency declaration for NMI

As DPH prepares 3-pronged plan to boost hiring, salary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, third from right, signs three proclamation in a ceremony late yesterday afternoon at the Garapan Fishing Base. Others in photo are, from left, George Cruz, Bob Scruggs, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, and Ben Babauta.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial revised his declaration of a state of health emergency for the CNMI, removing two of three items that include directing the Medical Profession Licensing Board to review and revise regulations to expand medical services, it was learned yesterday.

The revision also removed a directive on the Department of Public Health to immediately adopt appropriate recruitment strategies to restore an adequate level of medical services to the client population, but Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said this will still be a part of the three-pronged plan they will be presenting to the governor on Thursday.

Villagomez, in an interview yesterday, said the revision was made on the same day Fitial signed the original declaration on Oct. 20, but was released only a day later.

Fitial said yesterday that the authority to make appropriate measures to address health emergency rests on the governor upon signing the declaration, which is only good for 30 days.

Villagomez said DPH officials will again meet with the governor on Thursday to report on the status of the department's compliance with the declaration.

In the revised declaration, the governor retains its directive to DPH to "submit a written plan to move the Commonwealth from its present medical emergency status to an acceptable level of care" within 15 days of the declaration.

"We should be meeting the deadline for the plan. What we have is a three-pronged plan which addresses the immediate personnel needs, honing up the recruitment and retention program, and working with the private sector clinics to take in indigent patients," Villagomez said.

He said addressing the recruitment and retention of DPH medical staff would include "revising the salary scales" that could lead to salary increases and removal of full-time employee positions that are not needed to use funding to pay for wage hikes.

Fitial's declaration of health emergency paves the way for the hiring of doctors from countries outside the U.S. and Canada, including those from the Philippines or Australia.

Villagomez said they are looking to hire foreign doctors who are either U.S. licensed, or those from U.S.-accredited medical schools.

In his declaration, the governor said the CNMI is "experiencing an increasing rate of deaths among community members that can be attributed to lack of health care," and that the current systems of health care delivery are overtaxed with less than needed numbers of physicians and nurses available to serve medical needs.

The governor also said that the rate of off-island referrals has increased to the point where it poses a fiscal threat to the economic stability of the Executive Branch.

Medical referral costs reached $7.4 million in Fiscal Year 2009, a 17-percent increase over FY 2008's $6.3 million, even as appropriations totaled only $5,000. The $7.4 million includes the actual costs of treatment and other medical care, as well as expenses related to transporting and accommodating patients and their family and medical escorts to health care facilities in Guam, the Philippines, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

"The Department of Public Health is unable to address this situation within the existing regulatory structure," the governor added.

DPH is restricted from hiring doctors that are not from the U.S. mainland or Canada due to the CNMI Medical Profession Licensing Board regulations. The CNMI also cannot hire doctors from foreign countries due to the standards and requirements mandated by the federal government. The Commonwealth Health Center, which receives Medicare and Medicaid funding, is required to hire U.S.-trained doctors.

Both Villagomez and Fitial were at a proclamation signing ceremony late yesterday afternoon at the Garapan Fishing Base. Fitial signed three proclamations declaring November "National Diabetes Prevention and Awareness Month," National Lung Cancer Awareness Month and Great Marianas Smoke Out," and "National Home Care and Hospice Month."

The proclamation signing was followed by a health walk led by DPH, along with free blood sugar and blood pressure checkups.

Man gets 6 mos. for pointing gun at wife

The Superior Court imposed yesterday a six-month prison term on a 52-year-old man accused of pointing a handgun on the forehead of his wife in July on Tinian.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Vicente T. Aldan to serve the six-month imprisonment without parole for assault.

Following a plea agreement, Wiseman placed Aldan on three years of supervised probation and required him to pay a $500 fine plus court costs and probation fees. He was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and surrender his firearm.

Wiseman allowed Aldan to begin serving the prison term on Dec. 7, 2009, at 8am at the Department of Corrections.

According to the plea agreement, on July 2, 2009, Aldan pointed a handgun at the forehead of his wife and pulled the trigger several times. Fortunately, the gun did not go off.

The victim told police that Aldan got mad when she and a female companion got home after playing poker. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

For Senate 2009
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SEWER

From Page 1

year diverted the public eye away from the more serious threat facing the sewer system.

He said the sewer system is collapsing, beginning with the two secondary sewage treatment plants in Sadog Tasi and Agingan, which have been found noncompliant with standards. The main connection at Puerto Rico has also been faulted for substandard construction and design, while the gravity pipelines are all failing because of age and acid attack.

There are basically three types of sewage treatment plants: primary, secondary and tertiary. CUC's treatment plants at Sadog Tasi and Agingan are supposed to be secondary treatment plants but now function as primary treatment plants. Both plants need immediate rehabilitation and CUC must redesign the plants, Malae said, adding that day to day operations at both plants have been a struggle for CUC for many years now.

For instance, Malae said, the belt press at Agingan was repaired by an off-island contractor, but the repair didn't last long and "it is a prolonged painful experience" to make a claim with a vendor that is thousands of miles away.

"I cannot help but notice this sort of thing going on in other areas such as repairs to motors that fail shortly thereafter. Or fairly new submersible pumps that short out after less than a year in operation," Malae said.

Cleaning up sewage has standards that must be met but CUC has been unable to comply with these because of constant breakdowns at the plants, he said.

The CNMI's sewer plants were completed in 1993 but the first gravity mains were laid down around 1972.

A sewer system protects public health by protecting groundwater from where people get their drinking water and cleaning effluents before discharging them to receiving waters such as the Saipan lagoon.

'$7.5M needed for sewer system rehab'

This fiscal year, CUC is working on rehabilitating the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant first, followed by the Agingan plant. The agency will replace the failing gravity sewer lines with whatever funds are made available.

Malae disclosed that it is estimated that $7.5 million is needed to replace 10 miles of sewer pipelines but this can be done in three to five phases.

"For both sewer and water, our plan is to shepherd what little money is available to projects that would make the most impact," he said.

Among these projects are replacing 10 miles of failing sewer pipes and replacing the entire water distribution system between Lower Base and As Matuis, a 5-mile distance.

Malae said CUC will also use some ARRA funds to divert 20 wells, including nine chlorinators, into a manifold that fills a reservoir rather than pump directly into the distribution system.

CUC is under a stipulated order to make improvements to its operations, planning, engineering and financial management of water and wastewater. A critical component is the 100 percent metering of all customers.

"It is imperative that all production and consumption are measured and that means metering," Malae said, adding that metering has been proven to conserve precious commodity like water.

By reducing the production and consumption of water, the expenditure of energy for pumping will be reduced, he said. Service will then improve when water pressure increases to each household.

"The quality of the water improves as the potential for over pumping the aquifers is lessened. Less flow into the wastewater treatment plants means less pumping and treatment costs," he added.

'50 years life span'

Malae said a sewer plant is usually designed for 50 years. However, this is not the case with Saipan's sewer facilities.

"The plants won't physically collapse as the sewer mains are literally doing; the moving parts, the electrical and metal parts just start to fail one by one," Malae said.

CUC is currently pushing for an increase in its water and wastewater rates, in part to finance the upgrading of the systems.

Malae believes that when a new sewer rate is put in place, there will be a source of funding for operations and maintenance.

NOT

From Page 1

Voters have to choose "yes" or "no" on each of the four initiatives.

These initiatives are:

1. House Legislative Initiative 16-11, which prohibits withdrawal of any funds from the general fund except by appropriations and suspends the salaries of the governor and lawmakers if they fail to pass a balanced and timely budget;

2. Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11, which allows the holding of regular general elections only in even-numbered years;

3. House Legislative Initiative 15-3, which changes the composition of the Board of Education to include requiring that the nonvoting student representative to the board be a high school student, that the public school teacher representative be elected by public school teachers, and limiting the terms of elected board members to not more than two terms; and

4. Popular initiative on the Open Government Act of 2007, which reapplies the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

Blame game

Most of the voters interviewed yesterday blamed the Commonwealth Election Commission for not doing enough to educate the public on the initiatives that will amend the CNMI Constitution, and one that will amend a law.

Some said it is also the fault of voters who do not educate themselves about the initiatives, considering that they will vote on changing the CNMI Constitution.

The Election Commission printed 5,000 booklets and 400 posters about the initiatives, said Jermae Cabrera, an administrative specialist at the commission.

The commission also started placing advertisements in newspapers in October for a summary of the initiatives.

Copies of the actual initiatives are also available on the commission's website at www.votecnmi.gov.mp.

Manny Lazaro Jr., 23, was at the commission's temporary office at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to get an absentee ballot. He was set to leave for Guam last night for a job, and wouldn't be on Saipan for the polls on Saturday.

He said he's not familiar with all of the initiatives on the ballot, but said he will seek advice from his father who accompanied him to the election commission office.

His father, Manny Lazaro Sr., a nonresident worker, said besides the pamphlet he picked up at a Koblerville store, he is not aware of any public hearing done on the initiatives.

"It's too late for that," the father said.

A 20-year-old local female who also got her absentee ballot yesterday and requested anonymity, said "somewhat, young voters rely on what the elders think" about political issues. She said she has not read much about the initiatives.

Alex Sablan, a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said somebody could challenge the initiatives if there's not much public education provided by the government.

He also noted the lack of public forums or hearings on the initiatives.

"If amending the Constitution is such an important matter, the Commission should have held public meetings and public forums on the initiatives. I don't think it's reasonable to hold educational campaign just a week or less before the elections," he said.

Sablan said "it is a matter of getting average Joe on the street to understand what the initiatives are."

Hazel Tudela, 31, said it's not only the government that has not provided much information, but the voters, too, have not been proactive in educating themselves about the initiatives.

"In the end, they listen to what other people tell them," she said.

Ray Dela Cruz, 41, said he only knows little about the initiatives, and will seek advice from his friends and relatives on whether to vote "yes" or "no" on the initiatives.

'Waste of taxpayers' money'

Frank Hocog, 41, said it is "stupid" that one of the initiatives is about requiring lawmakers to pass a balanced budget.

"Why do we have to do this? It's stupid to make people work when lawmakers are not doing their work and we pay for their salaries," he said, adding that he's not familiar with the three other initiatives.

Hocog added that the initiatives are "a waste of taxpayers money" but said he will exercise his right and will read more about the initiatives so he can vote on them.

Tony Nepaial, 48, said there's not much information about the initiatives but he said he will read more about them before Saturday.

"If it's good for everbody, then I'll go for it," he added.

Lily Kapileo, 44, said she's only aware of the Open Government Act initiative.

Another voter, who is a government employee living in Papago, said he and his family are aware of the initiatives and will vote on them.

Open Government Act

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who introduced the bill that became the basis for the Open Government Act popular initiative, is calling on voters to vote "yes" on the initiative that reapplies the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

The initiative requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be made law.

Sablan said applying the Open Government Act to the Legislature will mean simple but critical changes in the way the Legislature conducts its business.

The Legislature would be required to issue public notice with agendas for its sessions and meetings, for example, and agendas could not change as quickly and as dramatically as they often do today, she said.

"In addition, citizens would have the right to request public records of their legislators, and to expect those records to be provided within 10 days of the request," Sablan said in a statement.

FOUR

From Page 1

tion of funds made by law.

The initiative would remove the ability of the government to go on continuing resolution in the absence of a budget, and instead would require the shutdown of government offices except for the provision of services essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the CNMI.

The governor's salary would be suspended if he fails to submit to the Legislature a proposed balanced budget by April 1, and would continue to be suspended until a proposed balanced budget is submitted.

Under the initiative, legislators' salaries would be suspended if they fail to pass a balanced budget by Oct. 1, and would continue to be suspended until a balanced budget is passed.

Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11

Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 proposes to amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution to require that general elections shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in even-numbered years, and would thereby synchronize CNMI elections with the federal election for the U.S. delegate.

During the transition to even-year elections, however, public officials who are elected this year would be given an extra year in their terms (i.e., the new governor, mayor, and senators would serve a five year term, sitting senators who are not up for reelection this year would also serve an extra year, and new members of the House would serve a three-year term).

The 16th Legislature had contemplated another initiative that would have accomplished the same goal of even-year elections but would have shortened most terms instead by one year during the transition. That proposal passed in the House, but failed to pass in the Senate.

The Election Commission had said that by not holding an election every year, the government could realize some savings that can be used in other programs and services in need of additional funds.

Once two elections are held simultaneously, the commission will have an estimated savings of $87,530.

House Legislative Initiative 15-3

House Legislative Initiative 15-3 proposes to amend the composition of the Board of Education by amending Article XV of the Constitution.

The changes include requiring that the nonvoting student representative to the Board of Education be a high school student; requiring that the public school teacher representative be elected by public school teachers in a process established by law; and limiting the terms of elected Board of Education members to not more than two terms.

Open Government Act of 2007

This popular initiative seeks to reapply the Open Government Act to the Legislature. The Open Government Act used to apply to the Legislature when it was first enacted during the 8th Legislature, but the 9th Legislature quickly amended the law to exempt the Legislature. The Legislature has remained exempt ever since.

2ND

From Page 1

two persons.

Detectives from the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division served the arrest warrant on Fernando E. Quitano on Monday at 7:29pm.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said the 25-year-old Quitano is facing charges of attempted murder, armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and contempt of court.

Quitano was tagged as the second suspect in the robbery at the 24 Hours Pawnshop, formerly called the Pink House Pawnshop, that occurred on Oct. 23. The first suspect, Marlon Martin, was caught after a short foot chase.

Tarkong said witnesses and a confidential source helped police identify Quitano as the second suspect.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela commended CID's officer in charge, Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar, case agent Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero, and other CID investigators for their "hard work and dedicated service to see that these criminals are arrested and brought to justice."

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $100,000 cash bail for Quitano's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Nov. 10, 2009, at 1:30pm.

Detective Leon Guerrero stated in his report that footage from a surveillance camera at the pawnshop helped them identify Quitano.

Leon Guerrero said two police officers who previously worked at the Department of Corrections recognized Quitano. The officers used to guard Quitano at DOC and recognized his face, height, and the way he walks through the video.

Leon Guerrero said it was Marlon Martin who hit the cashier's booth's door with a sledgehammer, while Quitano smashed the door with crowbar. The two then attacked two persons in the pawnshop with their weapons.

Leon Guerrero said Quitano came out from the booth carrying the crowbar, machete, and bag.

The detective said the two suspects ran away, but Martin was later arrested when witnesses and one victim chased him.

Leon Guerrero said Quitano was not arrested because he got into a getaway car that was parked across the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

Police are now looking for the driver of the getaway vehicle.

In December 2003, police arrested Quitano in connection with the armed robbery at Ling Lin Store in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 31, 2003. Two other men were arrested.

In April 2007, police picked up Quitano and three other men a few days after they reportedly robbed the Smile Poker in Chalan Kanoa. A security guard was injured in that incident.

5.6 percent increase in October vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Automotive dealers posted a modest 5.6 percent increase in new vehicle sales in October, the only third time this year that monthly sales went up.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association yesterday reported selling 38 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles in October, compared to 36 during the same month last year.

This brings to 373 the total new vehicles sold during the first 10 months of the year, a 30 percent drop from the same period in 2008.

CADA also sold 26 used vehicles last month, bringing to 332 the year-to-date second-hand vehicle sales.

"We are happy to see that this month sales numbers are up and our hope is that this trend will continue," CADA president Matthew Deets said in a statement.

Deets

Deets, who is also the general manager of Joeten Motors, said he is particularly happy with Joeten Motors' sales. The company is the only one of three dealers that saw a sales increase in October. Joeten Motors, the local dealer of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia units, sold 21 new vehicles in October, representing 61 percent of the market. Last year, it sold only 13 during the same month.

"We have had two strong months with over 50 percent market share. I think Joeten Motors has benefited by having a good mix of inventory and the ability to offer attractive discounts on our remaining 2009 stock," Deets added.

Micrel Corp., the local dealer of Toyotas and Chevrolets, sold 11 new vehicles, a 31 percent drop from October last year.

Triple "J" Motors, meanwhile, sold only six new vehicles, compared to seven last year. Triple "J" is the local distributor of new Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, and Mazda units.

Nissan Sentra was the top selling car with four units sold in October, followed by Mazda3 and Toyota Corolla with three units sold each.

In the trucks category, Nissan Frontier and Toyota Tacoma sold five units each.

Mazda CX9 and Nissan Xterra sold two units each in the SUVs market.

Only one van was sold in October: a Nissan Quest.

'Federalization will have adverse impact on NMC'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said yesterday the upcoming federal takeover of the local immigration system will have an adverse impact on the institution, both in terms of recruiting foreign students and retaining its experts.

In yesterday's regular Rotary Club meeting at the Hyatt Regency, Fernandez described the existing system of accepting foreign enrollees at NMC as an "open arms policy."

However, because of the new federal regulations that will take effect on Nov. 28, foreign students will be asked new requirements that will include money in bank or sponsors from the island.

"Our system is very open-arms…but now that we have to follow federal procedures, students have to come out with so much money in the bank or sponsors, which are much more complicated," she told the group.

Fernandez

She said the federal takeover would "adversely impact" the number of foreign students on campus.

NMC has over 800 students, including foreign enrollees.

Fernandez said the college is also looking at ways on how to retain its nonresident experts. She disclosed that a couple of scientists teaching at the campus are nonresidents.

NMC, she added, will make sure that these persons are protected and can be retained in their positions.

She said there are federal requirements that will allow NMC to retain these positions, provided they are not filled by local applicants.

'$7.8M grant for IT'

Fernandez also disclosed that the college has applied for two federal grants, totaling to $7.8 million, for a state-of-the-art information technology on campus.

She said the college expects to hear from the U.S. Department of Commerce about this next week.

The $7.8 million grant application includes one for a $5 million broadband technology grant from the stimulus funds.

NMC, Fernandez said, also stands to receive a total of $3.9 million from the over $44 million stabilization fund for the CNMI. The Public School System will get $33.2 million from the same funding source, while the Governor's Office is allocated $8 million.

Fernandez disclosed that NMC will set aside funds from the ARRA grant to achieve specialized accreditation for three education programs—education, business, and nursing.

This way, NMC could elevate the quality of these academic programs, she said.

"It is our target to make NMC the premier college not only in the region but around the world," she told the crowd.

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Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
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Govt fails again to remit payments to WCC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has issued a final notice to all government employers, informing them about their failure to remit contributions to the Worker's Compensation Commission, which means that no single employee from the affected department, agency, or bureau will get insurance coverage.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon, in an Oct. 21 memorandum to all department and activity heads, said that no government payments have been remitted to the Government Employee's Self Insurance Fund or to the Special Disability Fund.

Aguon said this failure to pay triggers the application of penalties and interests as mandated by law.

He explained that, by virtue of the law's provision, any employer with at least 200 employees may elect to be self-insured and shall pay into the Special Disability Fund an amount equal to 1 percent of the total salaries paid but not to exceed $1,500. Pursuant to law, the salaries from which to determine payments to the Disability Fund shall be made quarterly.

Aguon emphasized in his memorandum that if the government employer of over 200 employees has elected to be self-insured, there is a duty to pay the disability fund, which is not to exceed $1,500 for every employer.

Government employers who have less than 200 employees retain a duty to obtain Workers Compensation Commission policy coverage.

Currently, however, WCC has received no payments or filed policies, he said.

Aguon said that failure to make these required payments forces the private industry to shoulder this burden and acts as an indirect tax on private employers and carriers.

He said the central government's individual decision-makers cannot claim ignorance of this obligation.

"Prompt payment, may prospectively remedy this situation, yet does not remove the coverage gap which exists for any current nonpayment of this legal obligation," Aguon admitted.

Saipan Tribune learned that this is the fourth time a similar notice was issued to government employers. The Fund issued the same notice on April 16, June 16, and July 16 this year.

Aguon said this only means that the failure to remit the appropriate funds shall not only unduly tax the private industry but is clearly grounds for denial of coverage for any government employee who is injured on the job.

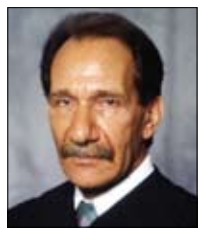
Wiseman tops judges in published opinions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman again topped other judges in the CNMI Superior Court in terms of published decisions issued in 2008.

According to the Judiciary's 2008 Annual Report, Wiseman issued 34 published opinions in civil cases, nine in criminal, and two in traffic, for a total of 45 cases.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona again followed Wiseman with five published opinions in civil matters and four in criminal, for a total of nine cases.


Wiseman

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo came third with two published opinions in civil.

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja did not publish an opinion. In 2007, Naraja also did not publish any decision.

In 2007, Wiseman also topped five judges, publishing nine opinions. Manglona was second with eight and then associate judge Juan T. Lizama with six opinions. Govendo produced three opinions.

Lizama and associate judge Perry B. Inos were included in the statistics. The two had no published opinion.

Lizama retired from the bench in May 2008. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial re-submitted his nomination of Inos as a judge in September 2008.

Section 3404 Title I of the Commonwealth Code states that "decisions of the Supreme Court and of the Superior Court which determine a case and decisions which determine a substantial question of procedure or substantive law shall be set forth in written opinions, with the reasons for the decision stated, within one year of submission of the case for decision, and shall be published in consultation with the Law Revision Commission."

It is the judge who determines whether or not his or her decision should be published.

Once a judge decides that his or her opinion is for publication, the Law Revision Commission puts it out as a published decision.

US: Glitch with Pacific Social Security numbers is now fixed

By HOLLY RAMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP)—Two federal agencies that put Americans at risk for identity-theft-like problems have fixed a glitch that linked U.S. Social Security numbers to those issued by three foreign countries, officials said.

The problem, which mostly affects Maine and New Hampshire, involves three Pacific Island nations that receive disaster loans, grants and other aid from the United States in exchange for military privileges in the region.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, one of the agencies that issues the aid, has replaced all the Social Security numbers of affected borrowers in its loan processing system with new characters that don't match any U.S. numbers, an agency spokesman told The Associated Press, which first reported the problem in August.

The Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau all have their own Social Security systems, but the USDA and several other agencies have treated numbers issued by the three nations as if they were U.S. numbers, regardless of whether they were already in use.

That can create headaches similar to identity theft when identities become linked in the eyes of lenders or creditors. In one case, when a Micronesian man defaulted on a $7,306 loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration, collection agencies sought out a New Hampshire woman with a matching Social Security number.

Though the USDA has known for years that numbers were getting mixed up, it made no changes to its software or procedures until recently.

The Small Business Administration also has taken steps to protect Americans whose numbers may match aid recipients from the three nations and will consider writing letters to credit bureaus on behalf of those who have been affected, a spokeswoman said Monday.

"The SBA has put in place a review process that will protect individuals with unusual Social Security numbers from being incorrectly penalized by the credit bureaus," said spokeswoman Carol Chastang.

The new process will also flag potential matches going forward, she said. At the Agriculture Department, it was unclear whether the fix would affect only current files or whether the agency also has changed how it will handle Social Security numbers of future aid recipients.

The Department of Education explicitly tells aid applicants from the three nations to skip the section of the application that requires a Social Security number.

There's no way to tell how many Social Security numbers other agencies have mixed up. But the USDA, SBA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have given grants and loans to more than 13,000 people in the three island nations since 2000.

The first 'green' home in the Marianas goes up

BARRIGADA, Guam—The Mariana Island's first home built with insulating concrete forms is up and occupied, with some super-cool news in the form of the owner's first electricity bill.

The total cost to power the four-bedroom, 4,410-square-foot, two-story home in Barrigada Heights, Guam, with two 30,000-BTU split air-conditioners in the month of September: $210. That easily represents about a 70 percent savings in power consumption from a similar size house built with typical concrete construction, said Meliton G. Santos Jr., president of MGS Construction, who designed and built the home for his family.

"My main intention of building with PolySteel ICF's was for energy efficiency and for living in comfort," Santos said. "I always hated coming home to a place that felt like an oven, which is what our concrete home in Harmon felt like at the end of the day."

Santos said his monthly power bill in the smaller Harmon home (about 1,500 square feet) never fell below $300 a month. He said his new home is always cool, even without air-conditioning, and he is pleased to be able to pay much less per month to the Guam Power Authority.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Meliton G. Santos Jr., president of MGS Construction, on Oct. 26 with his wife, Anne Marie, and their children, Audrey and Nathaniel, at home in Barrigada Heights. The Santos family's home, built with insulating concrete forms, requires very little cooling thanks to the energy efficiency of the PolySteel building blocks.

Additionally, Santos said it was important to his family to build with a "green" system.

The home in Barrigada was built with the PolyPro Flatwall, a system of super-strong, super-insulated tongue-and-groove blocks that form reinforced concrete walls, and completed with PolySteel LiteDeck floors and roofs, and VBuck framing for doors and windows.

Donna Dwiggins, president of Pacific PolySteel, which represents the building products in Guam, Saipan and the rest of Micronesia, said the building system is perfect for severe weather and natural disasters that the region sees from time to time.

"The PolySteel system completes a thermal and structural envelope with ICF's that provides protection from typhoons, earthquakes and heat." Dwiggins said. "It has the highest R-value rating in the building business, and also provides peace and quiet."

The soundproof Santos home overlooks the Guam International Airport runways, but he can only see the aircraft coming and going from inside the house.

Dwiggins said builders who use PolySteel go a long way toward earning points to reach the top level of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System. This is because PolySteel creates energy-efficient structures and the materials are recyclable. LEED points will be important to local developers and builders, because the federal government now requires a minimum achievement of LEED Silver Certification.

Besides being the coolest house in the region, Santos said his ICF home was easier to build than the typical home made of concrete blocks. He said the PolySteel forms were easy to carry and maneuver into place, and he was able to add additional electrical outlets late in construction thanks to the ability to cut the polysteel with a hot knife or a carpenter's saw.

"The Government of Guam inspectors were excited during inspections," Santos said, "because it was something completely different. But you know, the structural part is actually traditional. PolySteel is actually similar to a cast-in-place wall system. But for cast-in-place you need cranes to put up the walls. Here you just stack up the blocks and brace them with panel jacks." He said an experienced crew could cut down typical construction time by at least 25 percent.

PolySteel is the industry leader in the field of insulating concrete forms for the past 30 years. PolySteel exceeds all building codes with respect to wind loads and seismic activity. PolySteel is manufactured in 10 plants across the United States, Europe, and it expects to begin production in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region sometime in 2010. Dwiggins said plans are in place to produce PolySteel in Guam in the near future, as well. ***(PR)***

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Don't be afraid to express your political views in the General Election on November 7, 2009. Your future, our future depends on open and free elections.

Voting polls open from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm at all polling places designated by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

www.heinzarnold2009.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Heinz S. Hofschneider & Arnold I. Palacios

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans Week proclamation signing

On Nov. 11, 1009, the CNMI will join the rest of the nation in celebrating Veterans Day, to give thanks to those who have served freedom's cause, to salute members of the Armed Forces who are confronting the nation's adversaries abroad, and to honor the men and women who left America's shores but did not live to be thanked as veterans. Our country will always remember them.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be signing the Veterans Week Proclamation at the Governor's Conference Room on Nov. 9, 2009, at 11am.

On Nov. 11 itself, the Commonwealth will be celebrating Veterans Day at the American Memorial Park, Court of Honor at 11am. The keynote speaker will be Col. Dan Settergen, commander of the 36th Contingency Response Group, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam will also have a B-52 fly-by.

All veterans, active and reserve military members, their families, family members of departed veterans, the local Marine Scouts and the public are invited to come and join the signing of this proclamation and in celebrating Veterans Day. ***(PR)***

OES PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform parents and guardians that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009, 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting today, Nov. 4, at Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall. The guest speaker will be Gerald Aevermann of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is the Department of Homeland Security component agency responsible for the on-the-ground security of the nation's borders. Aevermann will discuss CBP's mission on and following the Nov. 28 implementation of the INA in the Commonwealth. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(SCC)***

Ben-Eloy in today's TV talk show

The John Gonzales Live TV program will feature Gov. Ben Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos today, Nov. 4, 2009, from 7pm to 8pm, to discuss their accomplishments and plans for next four years

NMI Descent for Self Government & Indigenous Rights spokesman Oscar Rasa, president Dolores M. Aldan, and John S. DelRosario Jr. will also discuss self-government and federalization in relation to indigenous rights and Covenant provisions. ***(PR)***

Boy Scout District Committee meeting tomorrow

CNMI Boy Scout District Committee members are being informed that the monthly District Committee meeting will be held tomorrow, Nov. 5, 2009, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The presence of all District Committee members is greatly appreciated. For more information, call Calistro I. Reyes at 233-5400.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE
October 21, 2009

PORT OF SAIPAN PARKING

This is to inform the general public that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) installed a new system for the parking facilities at the Port of Saipan. The new system, which will begin operating on November 01, 2009, dispenses a plastic card upon entry and the card is returned when exiting. The system reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge.

The Port of Saipan will be given a grace period of ten (10) minutes. A fee of $1.00 will be charged when the elapsed time between entry and exit exceeds ten (10) minutes for the first hour and an additional dollar for each additional hour or a fraction of an hour.

The parking fee for the first hour is one dollar and an additional dollar for each additional hour or a fraction of an hour. The total charge for each 24-hour period is $10.00.

A customer who loses a parking card will be charged $10.00 for the lost card and will also be charged the appropriate parking fee for the time parked. The customer with the lost parking card may be required to park on the side to allow other customers to exit first and then give time for the parking booth attendant to check the system to resolve the matter.

A customer with a valid Handicap Placard will not be charged any parking fee as long as the handicap person who was issued the placard is present in the vehicle. All customers with a valid Handicap Placard should call the Port of Saipan administration division for further details.

All customers with parking permits, bus permits, and taxi permits should go to the Port of Saipan Admin office (2nd floor of Captain George F. Fleming Building) to exchange their current permit to a parking card.

All parking fees are non-refundable.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Louisa Yamada-Garon at (670) 664-3550.

/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Acting Executive Director

The agenda includes the District Chairman's Report by David M. Sablan; Island Director's Report by Calistro I. Reyes; Membership/Relationship Chairman's Report by Mark Birmingham; and District Commissioner's Report by Jess Muna, among others. ***(PR)***

Operation NMC SROTC set

Returning CNMI cadets from the University of Guam's Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps will be hosting "Operation NMC SROTC" at the Northern Marianas College Student Center on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, from 1pm-2pm. These returning student leaders will be hosting an information session regarding the CNMI's Army Officer producing program available at NMC for all interested individuals considering the military as a career. The purpose of this event is to explain the significance of the Corps, its integral role in CNMI and its contribution to the success of CNMI cadets. ***(PR)***

DEQ Brigade sets cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet with brigade members at 8am at the entrance to the beach at COP. Volunteers will split into groups and go east or west, cleaning the beach and parking lots until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500.

OBP Hall of Fame nominations due Nov. 10

Off the Beaten Path announces the presentation of its biennial Hall of Fame award. Nominations must be submitted by e-mail to obpcnmi@gmail.com by Nov. 10, 2009.

The Hall of Fame is a way of recognizing CNMI residents who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the social and cultural enrichment of the Commonwealth. OBP is now accepting nominations of individuals deserving of this award. Nominees must be a resident of the CNMI and should exhibit some or all of the following qualities: Interest in community service; Dedication to the advancement of humanity; Respect for cultural preservation; Volunteerism; Strong character and charisma; Leadership and Altruism.

This year's winner will be honored at the Thanksmas celebration to be held at the Hyatt Regency on Dec. 5, 2009. The proceeds from Thanksmas will be donated to the Autism Society of the CNMI.

ThanksMas is sponsored Peroni, Kendall Jackson and Skyy Vodka. Tickets are on sale now with any OBP member; send an email to obpcnmi@gmail.com or call 285-7677. ***(PR)***

Farmers meeting to elect SNISWCD administrators

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will conduct a meeting to elect District Board Administrators on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. In accordance with Public Law 4-44 that established the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the CNMI, the election term is for Fiscal Year 2009-2012.

The event will be conducted by Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz and will be from 6pm to 7pm at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. We encourage all farmers and rancher to please attend this very important meeting.

Farmers and ranchers who would like to know more about this meeting can contact the local Saipan and Northern Islands SWCD office at 234-6180 and ask for Diana Gabaldo. ***(PR)***

Mary and Saints exhibit ongoing

The San Antonio Parish is inviting the people of Saipan to come and see the Mary and Saints Exhibit presently ongoing at the Parish Social Hall. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 235-4515. ***(PR)***

Thanks For Giving Walk has new date

The Team Courage sponsored walk has been rescheduled to Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009. The Thanks For Giving Walk is coordinated by CNMI cancer survivors and will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base, starting at 7am.

Participating in this event is an opportunity for families and friends to get a head start in fielding a team for the MMAC event next year. Veteran teams for the MMAC have already begun fundraising.

Interested in joining, but don't have a team yet? No worries! Contact Janine Nogis at 483-4207 or send an email to MMAC2010@googlegroups.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 4, 1999

Strengthen fiscal discipline—Teno

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio issued fresh instructions to Cabinet officials to tighten public spending during a meeting he convened yesterday to assess the financial condition of the government amid the absence of a fiscal budget for year 2000. The Cabinet meeting—the first in more than two months—also discussed a plan by the administration to mark the millennium year on Dec. 31 with a grand celebration, although there is no guarantee of funding, according to officials. In an interview after emerging from the two-hour discussion, the governor said the cost-cutting measures will remain due to the continuous economic difficulties confronting the island.

Businesses tighten belt to cope with economic slump

Thirty-two percent of 71 companies surveyed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce had cut back work hours to cope with the sharp decline in the island's tourism economy, according to a survey released by the business group. In the past two years, when businesses in the island started to feel the pinch of the crisis spawned by Asian-wide currency crunch, 474.5 jobs had been eliminated after employers imposed the freeze-hiring policy aimed at paring down cost of operations. The 71 companies who responded to the survey represented 56 percent of the total Chamber membership, and 54 percent of the respondents said they have no plans of expanding while the economy remains in distress

Nov. 4, 2002

Govt to set GHLI free

The Babauta Administration is set to submit to the Legislature tomorrow a proposed health insurance privatization bill, in efforts to offer a long-term solution to the current crisis besetting the Group Health and Life Insurance program. "I'm sending the draft legislation to the Legislature Tuesday. It's a draft suggesting to privatize the health insurance program of the government," Babauta said in an interview over the weekend. This, as he also noted that the government continues to find ways to raise the needed money to pay the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, the third party administrator for the GHLI. "When I look at the issue, I think that we need to deal with this on a short-term basis; finding money to pay off immediately the debt that we owe to providers in Hawaii," he said. He added that his office works closely with the Legislature in identifying the needed funds.

EPA to tackle Saipan's groundwater woes

Officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be on Saipan this month as the nation celebrates drinking water protection month. EPA officials are expected to discuss the Commonwealth's groundwater problems with their local counterparts. A technical work group composed of representatives from local agencies, led by environmental scientist David Schmidt, has been meeting in efforts to address Saipan's groundwater contamination. The EPA will also review other programs being implemented by the Division of Environmental Quality, besides meeting with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in connection with the ocean outfall project for the A the Agingan Wastewater Treatment facility in Agingan Point to mitigate pollution at the Saipan Lagoon.

Nov. 4, 2003

Heinz laments incumbents' defeat

The failure of seven incumbent House members to keep their seats—based on unofficial results from Saturday's midterm polls—was a big blow not only to the unsuccessful re-electionists themselves, but also to House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider. "As speaker, it's always hard not to feel responsible for any member losing the election. And I still feel that in as much as we have to respect the people's choices and opinions—and they have made a decision, on a personal level—it is still very difficult for me to deal with members who have lost the election. I've worked with them as their speaker for the last two years."

Absentee ballots coming in

The Commission on Election yesterday disclosed that some absentee ballots that were mailed out to off-island voters are now in the possession of the United States Postal Service. Absentee ballots will be tallied on November 15. According to election executive director Greg Sablan, the USPS has received an undisclosed number of absentee ballots from off-island voters even before the November 1, 2003 midterm election day. Sablan said, though, that the absentee ballots would remain in the possession of the USPS until the Nov. 15 tabulation date.

Judicial council holds Saipan conference

The Pacific Judicial Council composed of the judiciaries of the CNMI, Guam, the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia conducted their 2009 PJC Biennial Conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Oct. 25–29th. Forty judges and justices from the region as well as members of the CNMI Bar Association were in attendance. Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and the CNMI Judiciary hosted the event.

The following pictures show Pacific Judicial Council Conference participants enjoying a relaxing evening before the conference begins:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured from left to right are Associate Judge Ramona Manglona, CNMI Superior Court; Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Superior Court of Guam; Judge Anita Sukola, Superior Court of Guam, and Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, U.S. District Court of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall as the conference begins from left to right: Associate Judge David Wiseman, CNMI Superior Court; Judge Vernon Perez, Superior Court of Guam; Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, CNMI Supreme Court, and District court Judge Elvis Pila Patea, American Samoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured from left to right are Associate Judge Ramona Manglona, CNMI Superior Court; Mrs. Robert Torres, wife of the Chief Justice of the Guam Supreme Court; Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, U.S. District Court of Guam, and Ms. Tracy Guerrero, Director of Courts, CNMI Judicial Branch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured from left to right are Sally Pym, Education Specialist Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, San Francisco; Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, U.S. District Court of Guam, and Chief Justice Robert Torres, Supreme Court of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured from left to right are Sally Pym, Education Specialist, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, San Francisco; Associate Judge Ramona Manglona, CNMI Superior Court; Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, U.S. District Court of Guam; Judge Anita Skuola, Superior Court of Guam.

Sharpen your customer service skills

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their customer service and administrative skills.

The classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The November/December course schedule and fees are listed below. For a more detailed description of each course, please contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE
November 18-20, 23-24, 2009 (5pm-7pm)
Room: A-13
Fee: $95

STRESS MANAGEMENT
November 25, 27, 30 & December 1-2, 2009 (5pm-7pm)
Room: A-13
Fee: $95

BASIC CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS TRAINING
December 3-4, 7, 9-10, 2009 (5-7pm)
Room: A-13
Fee: $95

WORK ETIQUETTE TRAINING
December 14-15, 2009 (5pm-7pm)
Room: A-13
Fee: $40

TIME MANAGEMENT
December 16-17, 2009 (5pm-7pm)
Room: A-13
Fee: $40

It is required that all interested individuals register a week before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required before admission to a class. To register or learn more about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 extension 1010/1019, or e-mail Ms. Les Ogumoro-Uludong at logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	028E	10/24 Sat	10/22 Thu	10/22 Thu	10/20 Tue	10/17 Sat	10/30 Fri	10/26 Mon	10/25 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/26 Mon	10/30 Fri	11/1 Sun	11/3 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	021E	10/31 Sat	10/29 Thu	10/29 Thu	10/27 Tue	10/24 Sat	11/6 Fri	11/2 Mon	11/1 Sun	10/25 Sun	10/25 Sun	11/2 Mon	11/6 Fri	11/8 Sun	11/10 Tue
MELL SENOKO	030E	11/7 Sat	11/5 Thu	11/5 Thu	11/3 Tue	10/31 Sat	11/13 Fri	11/9 Mon	11/8 Sun	11/1 Sun	11/1 Sun	11/9 Mon	11/13 Fri	11/15 Sun	11/17 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	029E	11/14 Sat	11/12 Thu	11/12 Thu	11/10 Tue	11/7 Sat	11/20 Fri	11/16 Mon	11/15 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/16 Mon	11/20 Fri	11/22 Sun	11/24 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	11/21 Sat	11/19 Thu	11/19 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/14 Sat	11/27 Fri	11/23 Mon	11/22 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/23 Mon	11/27 Fri	11/29 Sun	12/1 Tue
MELL SENOKO	031E	11/28 Sat	11/26 Thu	11/26 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/21 Sat	12/4 Fri	11/30 Mon	11/29 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/30 Mon	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	028E	11/7 Sat	11/8 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/10 Tue	11/11 Wed	11/13 Fri	11/15 Sun	SKIP	11/20 Fri	11/21 Sat	11/26 Thu	12/15 Tue	11/29 Sun	11/25 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	021E	11/14 Sat	11/15 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/17 Tue	11/18 Wed	11/20 Fri	11/22 Sun	SKIP	11/27 Fri	11/28 Sat	12/3 Thu	12/22 Tue	12/6 Sun	12/2 Wed
MELL SENOKO	030E	11/21 Sat	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	SKIP	11/25 Wed	11/27 Fri	11/29 Sun	SKIP	12/4 Fri	12/5 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/29 Tue	12/13 Sun	12/9 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	029E	11/28 Sat	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/1 Tue	12/2 Wed	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	SKIP	12/11 Fri	12/12 Sat	12/17 Thu	1/5 Tue	12/20 Sun	12/16 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	12/5 Sat	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	SKIP	12/9 Wed	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/18 Fri	12/19 Sat	12/24 Thu	1/12 Tue	12/27 Sun	12/23 Wed
MELL SENOKO	031E	12/12 Sat	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue	12/16 Wed	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	SKIP	12/25 Fri	12/26 Sat	12/31 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/3 Sun	12/30 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Questions about pot

The Justice Department announced last week that it would not prosecute patients who legally obtain marijuana from licensed dispensaries in the 13 states that allow medicinal use. The decision is both sensible and potentially problematic.

People suffering from HIV/AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis and other serious ailments should not be harassed or live in fear if they abide by the laws of their state to obtain a drug that may provide relief from such symptoms as pain and nausea. Neither should those who strictly follow legal standards in dispensing marijuana from state-licensed shops. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. is right to focus federal resources primarily on large-scale illegal traffickers.

Yet this policy shift leaves significant questions unaddressed, including whether the Justice Department's decision essentially constitutes a first step toward legalizing marijuana. Such an immense policy decision should not be ushered in surreptitiously, but should be tackled head-on, with a full-throated public debate about the possible benefits and consequences.

More information—good old-fashioned scientific information—is needed before the federal government or more states formally endorse marijuana smoking for medicinal use. The Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, in 1999 published what is widely considered to be the most comprehensive study; it was decidedly mixed, listing the many possible drawbacks of smoking marijuana, including respiratory problems, while noting that such use seemed to provide some patients with relief not obtained from pills containing marijuana's active ingredients.

More recently, Dr. Peter J. Cohen, an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, noted in a 2009 law review article that reputable studies released in the past few years showed that patients with AIDS and hepatitis C experienced reduced pain and nausea and were better able to tolerate traditional treatment as a result of smoking marijuana. Yet these preliminary results—as Dr. Cohen points out—have not been subjected to rigorous testing by the Food and Drug Administration. The reason: A manufacturer must submit the drug for review before the FDA will tackle the assignment. So far, no such "manufacturer" has come forward.

The medical marijuana controversy may be moot in the near future because of a drug known as Sativex, a spray mist approved for conditional use in Canada and the United Kingdom that delivers the active ingredients found in marijuana. If cleared by the FDA, patients will have some confidence that it is safe and effective. Patients have the right to know if the same can be said about smoked marijuana.

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Day minus 3 to E-day

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dr. Failautusi Avegalio Jr. of the University of Hawaii, affectionately known as Prof. Tusi in the Pacific, once handed me a book on the *Age of Anxiety.* I did not bother to tell him that I was already steeped on overcoming the age of anxiety, having lived through the existentialist ferment of the '60s, and having moved on to the politics of authenticity.

The '60s theology of hope drove toward Bonhoeffer's "religionless or secular Christianity," and the politics of hope found warm reception in Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton's, and most recently, Barack and Michelle Obama's White House. The focus on hope was a push for authenticity, which in governance would translate into transparency and accountability.

Obama, when he visited Kenya, declared: "Africa doesn't need strong men, it needs strong institutions"...."good governance." As a nation, and in the CNMI, we stand at the threshold of transformation, and the choice is in foregoing ruggedly individual vintage men and women, and joining new and hope-filled corporate and community building agents I have metaphorically called angels of change. The shift is a choice of what has been to an adventure of what can and will be. Though election of public officers is a part of that shift, the bubbling of the corporate (in the social process sense, not the organizational one) community spirit surrounds our anxiety. We have learned how to fall with the collapse of everything dear; now we shall learn how to roll up our sleeves to build structures of good governance.

In our current structure is the Senate. The genius of the two chambers in the constitutional arrangement of the U.S. Congress is not that it guaranteed some semblance of equity of State representation but that it recognized the twin drives that fuel humanity's doing, the passion of the heart and the rationality of the mind.

The passion of the heart from humanity's masses is unquestionable. It showed its ugly and uncontrollable form in the French Revolution that justified imperial Napoleon Bonaparte, and the collapse of Tsarist Russia ushered the tyranny of the Soviets. On the other hand, Estonia's singing revolution and the Philippines' People Power are but two examples of compassion's flowering.

The rational Nazi and the Manhattan projects created the Holocaust and the A-bomb, affirming our genius for destruction to be ahead of the logic of our evolution. The Genome Project, brain research, and advances in communication technology beyond text to multimedia is showing our capacity to use reason for the common good. The image of the Earthrise on the lunarscape has become a symbol of hope beyond the tribalism of our inherited religious and cultural traditions

The passion of the legislative lower chamber represents what local people want. These wants stem out of an immediate and intuitive sense. This is the democratic pole that is powered by numbers. In our case, we count represented heads in the Legislature to include even those who do not vote. Demographics determine representation. This is why the local and indigenous voices are not the only ones that matter. Bone and flesh from any nationality, if resident in a particular geography, is directly and politically represented in the legislative district where one lives.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

More than the geographical representation, in this case, three per island, the Senate represents the thought-through common sense of the senatorial district. It refines the wants-list to the needs-list; the democratic yearning is adjusted to the refinement of comprehensively informed, thoroughly studied and carefully deliberated legislation. To use old terminologies, the plebian is finessed by the patri/matrician, the proletarian enabled by the politboro, and the democratic informed by the aristocratic (in its functional meaning).

I vote on Saipan. This is an opinion column, a social commentary, and it does not pretend to be a social analysis of needs nor is it indicative of a weather vane on trends. It is extremely personal.

The list as found in the Commonwealth Election web site for the Senatorial district of Saipan and the Northern Islands has the following names printed as candidates for two seats: CAMACHO, Paul William (Independent); CRUZ, Gregorio Sanchez (Independent); SABLAN, Christina Marie Elise (Independent); TEREGEYO, Ana Sablan (Covenant); KAIPAT, Jacinta Matagolai (Covenant); QUITUGUA, Justo Songao (Democrat); REYES, Pete Pangelinan (Republican); and TORRES, Ralph Anthony Deleon Guerrero (Republican)

I do not know Paul but his youth and his courage to run as an independent is favorable in my book. Greg is well known for championing the cause of the *taotao tasi,* and whether you agree with him or not, his passion for his cause is without equal.

Tina Sablan is a known quantity. She knows what she knows, she tells you what she feels, and does what issues from heart and mind without reservation. She fits well in my characterization of the Senate's function, and anyone else who travels along parallel lines should merit our vote as well.

Ana's previous legislative track record is known, and her service through the Washington DC rep's office had been well received. Cinta's take on labor issues, as a legislator and bureaucrat, has been, at best, controversial. Her personal identification with what she considers best for the Carolinian community is beyond question.

Justo is a responsible democratic Democrat. Anyone who has ever identified with his philosophical perspective or his party should support his candidacy.

Pete is a maverick 'why not?' Aggressive and tenacious, he has a faithful following that adds luster to his proven leadership roles, in and out of the chambers. Ralph is current, marketable, high-profile, amiable, and popular with a proven legislative track record.

I shall vote with the measures of compassion and sound mind. We are three days away from E-day. What gauge will you use? Decide and let it be known.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

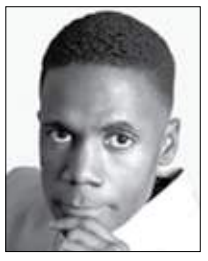
How to stay positive all the time…during federalization

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

This is not an article in favor of or in opposition to federalization. This is an article in support of business survival regardless of how federalization plays out.

First a little review

As you may recall, people were predicting doom once the feds revoked the Russian and Chinese visa waiver privilege. We've since learned that Russians and Chinese will continue to be allowed onto the island. And everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

People were predicting doom and mass deportations once the feds take over immigration. We've now learned that contract workers will be issued an "umbrella" permit that will allow non-immigrant workers to remain on Saipan for the next two years. And everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

Sure, you can argue that these are simply temporary fixes for a long-term challenge that won't go away. However, there is still a lesson here.

Lessons learned

So, what have we learned? Hopefully, it should be obvious that the cataclysmic doom and destruction that people often fear doesn't happen quite the way people predict. Even in the midst of an economic downturn, we can still have months where tourist numbers in certain markets exceed that of previous years, as was just reported for September 2009. Even as the guest worker program is phased out, we can experience measures being taken that will stem the tide and ease the pain.

Those who know the law know that despite how the U.S. is perceived by many, there are controls in place (i.e., the constitution, civil rights, legal action) that allow recourse by the CNMI and/or ensure that the federal government's actions don't violate basic human rights. Therefore, you can bet that as things progress, there will be similar actions to ease the transition, so as not to unduly cripple the economy, separate families or trample human rights.

So, whether it comes through the largess of the feds, the efforts of those who oppose it, or a combination of the two, what we are seeing during federalization is a gradual transition from one reality to another. It is in this transition that the opportunity for business owners exists.

The Gift of Transition

Now, of course, the story is still being written, and we are still in the early stages of this transition. It doesn't mean all is well. There is still an overriding agenda in play. There is still a seemingly inexorable movement toward the complete federalization and militarization of this region. Businesses will close, residents and contract workers will leave. But, at the same time, during this transition, businesses will open and residents as well as immigrants will arrive.

Such transition periods offer business owners the opportunity to prepare. What are you doing to prepare for the new reality? What are you doing, for instance, to prepare for 2014 when the entire contract worker program is scheduled to end? Preparation involves anticipating what the new reality will be. Here's a tip.

Follow the law

There's an old maxim that states, "opportunities follow laws." In other words, whenever a new law or regulation is enacted, it usually results in new business opportunities.

If you recall a few months ago, the Department of Public Safety announced its new driver education requirements. As a result, there was created, and continues to exist an opportunity for enterprising entrepreneurs to start their own Driver Training Schools. New law. New business.

Similarly, as federalization pushes forward, there will be interim regulations, exceptions, new statuses created, new requirements, and changing opportunities that come with each one. Typically, each new law means there's a new set of questions, perceptions, behaviors that the law generates. It is within these questions and behaviors that the opportunity exists. Here's one example.

A new wave of immigrants?

Along with federalization comes a new regulation. As you may have heard, DHS and Department of Justice regulations have recently been updated to amend the definition of the geographical "United States" to now include the CNMI for immigration purposes. Prior to this update, people with U.S. permanent resident alien status ("green cards") who came to the CNMI were considered technically "outside" of the United States, and, if they stayed too long, would risk being in violation of the terms of their green card status that requires they maintain continuous residence in the geographical United States for a specified number of months each year.

In other words, it hasn't been just the distance that has kept some U.S. mainlanders away from Saipan. For those green card holders who wished to become U.S. citizens, their time in the CNMI did not count toward their residency requirement. Now it will.

What this means is that once word gets out that Saipan is now part of the U.S. (and as the minimum wage approaches national levels), green card holders living in the U.S., or even on Guam, might consider coming to Saipan to live and work, providing a new influx of residents and labor.

That's just one example. Savvy entrepreneurs follow federalization not just to "see what happens," but to anticipate what will happen, and see what they can make happen! It's not all about doom and gloom.

This I know for sure

As things play out, the Saipan of the future may not look exactly the same as it does today. However, what we can be relatively sure of is that there will be businesses in operation, there will be people living and working here, there will be employees earning whatever the minimum wage is at that time, and there will be tourists coming to the island spending money. The question is whether you will be part of, or be selling to any of those groups.

As mentioned, this is not an article in favor of, or in opposition to federalization. As a business owner you can and should offer your support toward whichever outcome you favor. There is strength in numbers. So, if you favor federalization, speak out and join forces with others who do. If you oppose it, speak out and join forces with those who do. But in the interim, regardless of which camp prevails, there is still the need to survive and thrive here on Saipan should you decide to stay the course toward the eventual outcome.

The Moral of the Story

So, to stay positive all the time, even during federalization, remember:

1. Things are never as gloomy as the pessimists predict.
2. Start preparing now for each possible outcome.
3. There will be new opportunities that come partnered with every new law, constitutional amendment and regulation that is enacted.
4. There will be an opportunity-rich transition period from one reality to another.

Keep these in mind when the time comes and the inevitable pro and con debate surrounding Article 12 heats up. If you've learned the lessons from federalization, you'll probably be able to write your own column titled "How to Stay Positive All The Time...Before and After Article 12."*

**Article 12: the section of the CNMI Constitution that limits purchase and ownership of land in the CNMI to people of Northern Marianas descent.*

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan may now request copies here on Saipan by emailing me walt@passionprofit.com, or Amazon.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letters to the Editor

No, no, yes, and no on initiatives

First I want to thank Ruth Tighe for her excellent analysis on the proposed initiatives on the ballot. I was also concerned about the initiatives and now I'm really convinced that everything is not what it appears to be, especially when we don't know everything that is contained in these initiatives. As she stated, "the full text of the amendments has not been published. There is no way to compare what is being proposed to what already exists. No statement of pros and cons—except a rather weak one on two of the three amendments on the Election Commission Web site—has been provided to the voting public. There has been no debate, no public discussion." We must take her words very seriously and exercise extreme caution.

We, especially teachers, need to vote "no" on the first initiative on the ballot as teachers had no input or say in the drafting of this initiative. I strongly believe this initiative was a backroom deal designed to take away teachers' right to form an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers—a right that has never been exercised and it's obvious the intent of this initiative is to kill all hope of teachers to exercise their constitutional right. There is nothing wrong with the Constitution and teachers just need a governor that will follow the existing law governing teachers and their representative on the Board of Education and there is nothing wrong with the way the selection of the student rep is determined. It may also prove to be unconstitutional to create a law governing the private sector's choice on how and who will represent the private schools on the board.

As for the two terms of BOE members, that is a separate issue that the board can easily remedy through a board policy or a resolution that future board members should respect. It is sad that we can't even get a single person to run against one board member in this election but we don't need to change our Constitution to fix that problem. Why can't board members just respect what is clearly the desire of the people for them to serve only two terms? Why can't they respect the need for other people to have a chance and the opportunity for new ideas and leadership in education? There would certainly be several other candidates to choose from under these conditions but it goes to show you the politics of some education officials is just as bad as some of the politics in our government when everyone is afraid to run against a certain board member and it's not because they are so good as it is their fear of his style of politics.

The second initiative on the ballot for changes in the use of funds also deserves a "no" vote as we don't have a clue as to what we are signing off on or approving, especially when it comes to the use of funds that may not even be enforceable. Why didn't the people who sponsored these initiatives offer some kind of public forum before trying to force this law down our throats?

The third initiative on the ballot is a big "yes" as we are aware of all the factors involved in the Open Government Act of 2007; it's ready for passage, as Ms. Tighe stated.

The fourth initiative on terms of office deserves a "no" vote because we don't know the full effects of this change and places us in an unfair advantage to determine what is best. There is a need for us to be more aligned with the federal government's transition of power but how will this affect the next group of elected officials and their terms is not clear.

So please, vote "no," "no," "yes," and "no" in that order on the initiatives because there are too many unknowns and too much at stake for the people to make an uniformed decision on the laws that we will be forced to live by in the future. It is the expectation that we be informed citizens before taking any actions.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

More harm than good

The governor is right. A change in leadership can do more harm than good. At present this administration is in the process of realizing over $100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding that should be followed through in an orderly and professional manner. A change of leadership in the administration is generally destabilizing. We are certainly halfway into realizing alternative energy projects that will impact the CNMI positively. The fight with the federal government is a normal reaction as usually happen in the U.S itself when certain state rights are being trampled by federal policy. That is quite normal. Not fighting questions the integrity on its leader in protecting the right of its citizens from arbitrary outside interference of one's internal affairs. We understand our economic situation. We know that the entire world is affected by the same economic downturn. What we need is to work toward stabilizing our economic situation. A change of leadership can do more harm than good.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

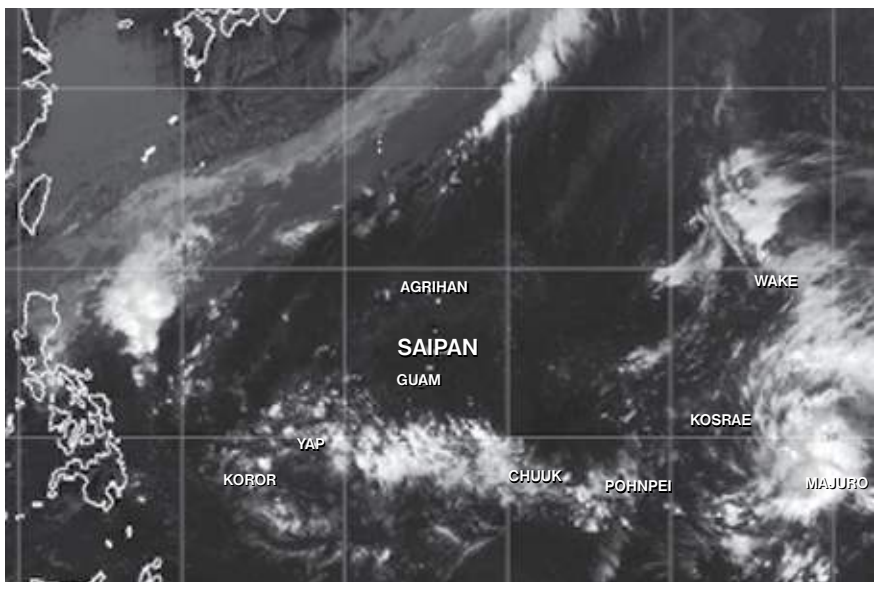
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunder Storms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲65	▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲37	▼23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77	▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼72
London	Showers	▲52	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87	▼60
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲81	▼58
Miami	Showers	▲87	▼74
New York	Cloudy	▲59	▼47
Osaka	Mild Cloudy	▲56	▼43
Paris	Showers	▲47	▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲50	▼32
Rome	Showers	▲62	▼52
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲56	▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼53
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲39	▼28
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼42
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼44

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 11N130E across Palau through a circulation near 6N141E to a weak circulation near 3N157E then northeastward to another weak circulation south of Majuro near 6N172E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are between the equator and 10N from 143E to 150E. Scattered showers are between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 60 miles of a line from 8N153E to 6N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are just south of Majuro between the equator and 7N from 169E to 175E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Majuro between 7N and 17N from 172E to 180…and north of Wake Island or north of a line from 22N162E to 24N172E. A cold front extends from 25N135E southwestward past 21N130E. Scattered showers are along and up to 350 miles northwest of a line from 20N130E to 25N140E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:36 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:55 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:03 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:58 PM	6:18 AM
Wednesday	6:52 PM	7:19 AM
Thursday	7:51 PM	8:21 AM
Friday	8:53 PM	9:23 AM
Saturday	9:57 PM	10:22 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Ford turns a profit, reaping rewards of turnaround

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—One of the troubled Detroit Three automakers, Ford, is making money again and looking for better times in no more than two years.

Emerging from a three-year makeover with popular cars and trucks, Ford said Monday it earned nearly $1 billion in the third quarter and will be solidly profitable by 2011, a more optimistic forecast than earlier.

While heavy debt and lean times for American car shoppers threaten the comeback, the report puts Ford in a far better position than General Motors or Chrysler, which are still finding their bearings after emerging from bankruptcy.

Ford's cars are winning popular and critical acclaim, like the Fusion midsize sedan and more gas-efficient Focus compact. And years of painful cost-cutting, which have halved its work force, have looked prophetic since the recession struck, hurting demand.

AP

A 2010 Ford Fusion sedan is reflected in the chrome grille of an 2010 Edge at a Ford dealership in Denver on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009.

Even in North America, the company's biggest market, Ford turned a profit after losing money there for four years.

GM and Chrysler, meanwhile, are still trying to cut jobs and win back customers, many of whom are steering toward their healthier rival.

Three years ago, Ford was considered in the worst shape of the Detroit Three after posting what was at the time the worst annual loss in its history.

The big quarterly profit is the fruit of changes Ford has been making for several years.

At the end of 2005, then-CEO Bill Ford Jr. and two other Ford executives developed a plan to shut down factories, slash the work force and speed the development of cars and trucks.

A year later, Bill Ford left the CEO job and installed Alan Mulally, a former Boeing executive, who further honed the plan and made a key decision—mortgaging assets like its blue oval logo to raise $23.4 billion.

When the economy faltered last year and took auto sales down with it, Ford had the cash to weather the storm.

"GM and Chrysler still have quite a bit of restructuring to do and simply don't have the product competitiveness across their lineup that Ford does," said Mark Oline, auto industry analyst for Fitch Ratings.

GAO: Full recovery of auto investment unlikely

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers are unlikely to recover their full investment in General Motors or Chrysler, government investigators said Monday in the latest review to cast doubts that the government will recoup the $80 billion it poured into the two automakers.

The Government Accountability Office concluded that General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group LLC likely won't be valuable enough for the Treasury Department to break even on its investment in the two auto companies that went though bankruptcy earlier this year.

The GAO also revealed that the Obama administration is closely scrutinizing the finances of GM and Chrysler and has set some requirements on production even though it has said it will maintain a hands-off approach on the automakers' daily operations.

To recover the loans Treasury gave Chrysler and GM to keep them afloat, the automakers would have to reach valuations they didn't approach even when they were healthier.

Treasury officials said they were considering a series of initial public offerings to dispose of the government's 61 percent stake in GM. For Chrysler, a private sale of the government's nearly 10 percent stake is more likely because of the government's minority ownership.

GM would need a market capitalization, or the market value of the company's outstanding shares, of $66.9 billion for Treasury to make its money back, according to GAO. GM's peak market value was $57 billion in 2000. Chrysler, which was last publicly valued at $37 billion in 1998 when it merged with Daimler AG, would need a market value of $54.8 billion.

Obama: Hiring last to come as economy rebounds

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the prospect of double-digit unemployment looms, President Barack Obama on Monday sought to set expectations for the nation, saying job losses will likely roll on "for weeks and months to come" because hiring always lags behind in an economic rebound.

"We just are not where we need to be yet," Obama said as he met with a panel of economic advisers. "We've got a long way to go."

Unemployment hit a 26-year high of 9.8 percent in September. The next monthly reports come out Friday and could show it topping 10 percent.

Still, the economy is growing again. Reports out Monday show improvement in manufacturing, construction and contracts to buy homes.

Obama said that building a sustainable economy and getting people back to work remain his "administration's overriding focus." Obama helped push through a $787 billion economic stimulus package earlier this year, and he says the administration, Congress and the private sector must take more bold steps to help.

Obama spoke as he met with his Economic Recovery Advisory Board. The session was open to reporters and streamed live on the White House Web site.

3 strong economic reports lift recovery hopes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hopes for the fledgling economic recovery got a boost Monday from better-than-expected news on manufacturing, construction and contracts to buy homes.

The surprisingly strong readings provided some comfort that the economy is packing more momentum than assumed going into the end of the year. Still, with jobs scarce, lending tight and consumers wary of spending, it's unclear whether the gains can be sustained as government stimulus programs wind down.

The Institute for Supply Management's gauge of manufacturing activity grew in October at the fastest pace in more than three years. It was driven by businesses' replenishing of stockpiles, higher demand for American exports and support from the government's $787 billion stimulus program.

The ISM index shot up to 55.7 in October, the third straight reading above 50, which signals growth in the sector. It was the highest level since April 2006.

"It clearly looks like we are seeing a turnaround in the manufacturing sector," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Economists cautioned that the manufacturing pattern seen in the past two post-recession recoveries likely will be repeated this time: In each case, early strength in manufacturing, led by companies' restocking of inventories, faded within a few months.

Wyss agrees that the ISM index could dip below 50 in the first quarter of next year. But he thinks that would be a temporary slump and not a sign that the economy was dipping back into recession.

"A bit of a slip in manufacturing would be consistent with a sluggish recovery," he said.

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, expanded at a 3.5 percent rate in the July-September quarter. That number provided compelling evidence that the longest recession since the 1930s was ending. Wyss said he expects GDP growth to slow to around 1.7 percent in the current quarter and to remain sluggish in the first half of next year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

CIT Group's biggest hurdle: Keeping customers

NEW YORK (AP)—A Chapter 11 filing usually means the end of the road for financial companies since they rely so heavily on customer trust. CIT Group Inc. is hoping that its case will be different. The commercial lender's trip through bankruptcy reorganization may well be speedy given that it's already reached agreements with creditors on restructuring its debt. But the real test will come from CIT customers, who could decide to take their business elsewhere. "Their image is tarnished right now," said Len Blum, a managing partner at investment bank Westwood Capital. "They have an uphill climb because they are only worth the value of the portfolio," Blum said of CIT's pool of loans it has extended to customers.

FDA won't accept Merck's application for new drug

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—U.S. regulators have refused to accept drugmaker Merck & Co.'s application for a new, combination cholesterol pill that includes rival Pfizer's Lipitor, the world's top-selling drug. Merck disclosed the rare move by the Food and Drug Administration in a regulatory filing Monday. The company 2 1/2 years ago said it planned to make a dual cholesterol pill that at the time looked sure to be a blockbuster: a combination of Pfizer Inc.'s Lipitor—which generates nearly $13 billion in annual sales—and Zetia, a cholesterol pill Merck sells with Schering-Plough Corp. The two drugmakers have been partners on cholesterol medicines since 2000 and are about to merge.

Stanley sees cost savings in Black & Decker deal

CHICAGO (AP)—Tool makers Stanley Works and Black & Decker Corp. are betting that together they can wring out more profit and better position themselves for a housing market recovery than they could apart. Battered by the housing slump and economic recession, two of the industry's most iconic brands are now merging. Stanley Works on Monday agreed to pay $3.46 billion for rival Black & Decker in an all-stock deal that will create the nation's largest tool maker. The deal will cut costs by $350 million within three years, likely in part through job cuts, and grow earnings per share by $1 within three years, the companies said. Executives said most of the savings will come from reducing corporate overhead and consolidating business units and manufacturing, distribution and purchasing.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,540.00 Down 6.30 (-0.14%)
HONG KONG	21,465.91 Down 154.28 (-0.71%)
JAKARTA	2,363.35 Down 8.30 (-0.35%)
TOKYO	9,802.95 Down 231.79 (-2.31%)
K. LUMPUR	1,176.90 Up 4.34 (0.37%)
MANILA	2,908.24 Down 0.26 (-0.01%)
SINGAPORE	2,637.11 Down 8.32 (-0.31%)
SEOUL	1,549.92 Down 9.17 (-0.59%)
BANGKOK	676.93 Down 0.29 (-0.04%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,789.44 76.71
NASDAQ	2,049.20 4.09
S&P	1,042.88 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1078
British Pound	0.6103
Canadian Dollar	1.0769
Chinese Renminbi	6.8277
Euro	0.6758
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7503
Indian Rupee	47.0400
Indonesian Rupiah	9,553.7500
Japanese Yen	90.2100
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4195
New Zealand Dollar	1.3851
Philippine Peso	47.6450
Singapore Dollar	1.3975
South Korean Won	1,182.0500
Swiss Franc	1.0209
Taiwan Dollar	32.5260
Thailand Baht	33.4300

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Half of US kids will get food stamps, study says

CHICAGO (AP)—Nearly half of all U.S. children and 90 percent of black youngsters will be on food stamps at some point during childhood, and fallout from the current recession could push those numbers even higher, researchers say.

The estimate comes from an analysis of 30 years of national data, and it bolsters other recent evidence on the pervasiveness of youngsters at economic risk. It suggests that almost everyone knows a family who has received food stamps, or will in the future, said lead author Mark Rank, a sociologist at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Your neighbor may be using some of these programs but it's not the kind of thing people want to talk about," Rank said.

The analysis was released Monday in the November issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. The authors say it's a medical issue pediatricians need to be aware of because children on food stamps are at risk for malnutrition and other ills linked with poverty.

"This is a real danger sign that we as a society need to do a lot more to protect children," Rank said.

Food stamps are a Department of Agriculture program for low-income individuals and families, covering most foods although not prepared hot foods or alcohol. For a family of four to be eligible, their annual take-home pay can't exceed about $22,000.

AP

The new Navy assault ship USS *New York*, built with World Trade Center steel, passes Statue of Liberty as it arrives Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 in New York.

ON THE NET

Archives: http://www.archpediatrics.com

According to a USDA report released last month, 28.4 million Americans received food stamps in an average month in 2008, and about half were younger than age 18. The average monthly benefit per household totaled $222.

Rank and Cornell University sociologist Thomas Hirschl studied data from a nationally representative survey of 4,800 American households interviewed annually from 1968 through 1997 by the University of Michigan. About 18,000 adults and children were involved.

Overall, about 49 percent of all children were on food stamps at some point by the age of 20, the analysis found. That includes 90 percent of black children and 37 percent of whites. The analysis didn't include other ethnic groups.

The time span included typical economic ups and downs, including the early 1980s recession. That means similar portions of children now and in the future will live in families receiving food stamps, although ongoing economic turmoil may increase the numbers, Rank said.

An editorial in the medical journal agreed.

"The current recession is likely to generate for children in the United States the greatest level of material deprivation that we will see in our professional lifetimes," Stanford pediatrician Dr. Paul Wise wrote.

Wise said the Archives study estimate is believable.

AP sources: House health bill totals $1.2 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The health care bill headed for a vote in the House this week costs $1.2 trillion or more over a decade, according to numerous Democratic officials and figures contained in an analysis by congressional budget experts, far higher than the $900 billion cited by President Barack Obama as a price tag for his reform plan.

While the Congressional Budget Office has put the cost of expanding coverage in the legislation at roughly $1 trillion, Democrats added billions more on higher spending for public health, a reinsurance program to hold down retiree health costs, payments for preventive services and more.

Many of the additions are designed to improve benefits or ease access to coverage in government programs. The officials who provided overall cost estimates did so on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss them.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has referred repeatedly to the bill's net cost of $894 billion over a decade for coverage.

Asked about the higher estimate, Pelosi spokesman Brendan Daly said the measure not only insures 36 million more Americans, it provides critical health insurance reform in a way that is fiscally sound.

"It will not add one dime to the deficit. In fact, the CBO said last week that it will reduce the deficit both in the first 10 years and in the second 10 years," Daly said.

Democrats have been intent on passing legislation this year to implement Obama's call for expanded coverage for millions, curbs on industry abuses and provisions to slow the rate of growth of health care costs nationally.

"Now, add it all up, and the plan I'm proposing will cost around $900 billion over 10 years," the president said in a nationally televised speech in early September.

Ship built with WTC steel comes to namesake city

NEW YORK (AP)—The new Navy assault ship USS New York, built with World Trade Center steel, arrived in its namesake city Monday with a rifle volley salute near the site of the 2001 terrorist attack.

First responders, families of Sept. 11 victims and the public gathered Monday at a waterfront viewing area, where they could see the crew standing at attention along the deck of the battleship gray vessel.

The big ship paused. Then the shots were fired, with a cracking sound, in three bursts.

The bow of the $1 billion ship, built in Louisiana, contains about 7.5 tons of steel from the fallen towers.

"It's a transformation ... from something really twisted and ugly," said Rosaleen Tallon, who lost her firefighter brother, Sean, on 9/11. "I'm proud that our military is using that steel."

Tallon said her brother, who was a Marine, would have been proud.

JoAnn Atlas, of Howells, N.Y., who lost her husband, fire Lt. Gregg Atlas, draped a flag-themed banner along the fence. The names of emergency workers who died were written on the red stripes.

"We have to remember. It's a way to honor them," she said.

Members of the public included Nancy DiGiacomo, who came from Huntington, N.Y., with her husband, 9-year-old son, mother and sister.

"I just thought it was important to see" the transformation of the tragedy's wreckage, said DiGiacomo. "From that, something else can come of it."

Lt. Cmdr. Colette Murphy, a Navy spokeswoman, said she was excited for those serving on board to see the city's "awe-inspiring" welcome.

Inquiry of 6 bodies in Ohio focuses on 8-9 women

CLEVELAND (AP)—Investigators trying to identify the bodies of six women found in the home of a convicted rapist are focusing the inquiry on eight or nine missing women, the coroner said Monday.

It could take days or weeks to identify the bodies using dental records or DNA mouth-swab samples from relatives. Cuyahoga County Coroner Frank Miller said his office has begun the "arduous" process of collecting materials from dentists and relatives.

The six women were black and five of them had been strangled, authorities said. The cause of death of the sixth hadn't been determined.

The investigation will pay close attention to missing women who were living alone, were homeless or had drug or alcohol problems, Miller said.

The bodies were discovered last week after a woman reported being raped at the east-side home of 50-year-old Anthony Sowell.

Armed with search and arrest warrants, police went to the home Thursday to arrest Sowell on a rape and felonious assault warrant. He wasn't there, but police found two bodies. Police found the other remains on Friday and arrested Sowell on Saturday.

Sowell hasn't been charged in the rape investigation or in connection with the bodies. Court records and jail officials had no information about whether he had an attorney. Police typically have 72 hours—in this case it would be until Tuesday—to charge or release a suspect.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-con charged in 4 fatal shootings in 'Mayberry'

MOUNT AIRY, N.C. (AP)—A soured love affair may have led an ex-convict to gun down four men in the town that inspired the idyllic community of Mayberry on the 1960s TV series "The Andy Griffith Show," police said Monday. Marcos Chavez Gonzalez, 29, was charged with four counts of murder in the slayings late Sunday outside a television store in Mount Airy, about 100 miles north of Charlotte. The four were shot with a high-powered assault rifle outside Wood's TV, in the shadow of a water tower that says "Welcome to Mount Airy" and has a picture of Griffith and Opie, his son on the show. Police do not believe the shootings were random. Mount Airy Police Chief Dale Watson said officers are investigating several leads, including whether it was a contract killing or repercussions from a love affair gone bad.

GOP victory Tuesday won't erase party's problems

WASHINGTON (AP)—For Republicans, an election win of any size Tuesday would be a blessing. But victories in Virginia, New Jersey or elsewhere won't erase enormous obstacles the party faces heading into a 2010 midterm election year when control of Congress and statehouses from coast to coast will be up for grabs. It's been a tough few years for the GOP. The party lost control of Congress in 2006 and then lost the White House in 2008 with three traditional Republican states—Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia—abandoning the party. So even if political winds start blowing harder behind them and even if they can capitalize on Democratic missteps, Republicans still will have a long way to go over the next year because of their party's own fundamental problems—divisions over the path forward, the lack of a national leader and a shrinking base in a changing nation.

Woman calls 911 to report herself as drunk driver

NEILSVILLE, Wis. (AP)—The call came into the 911 dispatcher: "I don't want to hurt anybody. I'm drunk." And with that, Mary Strey, 49, of Granton, reported herself as a drunken driver about three miles northeast of Neilsville in central Wisconsin. Clark County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jim Backus said Monday that Strey's call on Oct. 24 led deputies to cite her for misdemeanor drunken driving with a blood-alcohol level double the legal limit to drive. She makes her first court appearance Dec. 10. Backus said drunken drivers reporting themselves is rare.

Asia

Suicide bomber kills 35 near Pakistan's capital

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomb killed 35 people near Pakistan's military headquarters Monday while a second blast wounded several police, continuing a wave of terrorism that prompted the United Nations to suspend long-term development work near the Afghan border.

The rash of attacks by Islamist militants has killed at least 300 people across Pakistan over the past month—including 11 U.N. workers—and threatened to destabilize the nuclear-armed nation.

The violence has grown bloodier since the government launched an anti-Taliban offensive in mid-October, pushing into the impoverished and underdeveloped tribal region of South Waziristan. The U.N. decision to suspend non-emergency aid could weaken efforts to counter the appeal of extremism by improving ordinary people's daily lives.

The first suicide bomber Monday killed 35 people outside a bank near Pakistan's military headquarters in Rawalpindi, just a few miles (kilometers) from Islamabad.

Most of those waiting in line were from the military and were there to cash paychecks, said Mohammad Mushtaq, a wounded soldier.

AP

Pakistani officials examine a wreckage of a vehicle after a suicide bombing near Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, Nov. 2, 2009.

"I was sitting on the pavement outside to wait for my turn," said Mushtaq, who suffered a head injury. "The bomb went off with a big bang. We all ran. I saw blood and body parts everywhere."

Four soldiers were killed in the attack and nine were wounded, said the army's chief spokesman, Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas. In total, 35 people were killed, Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said.

No group claimed responsibility for the bombing, though suspicion immediately fell on the Pakistani Taliban.

Hours later, another suicide bombing ripped through a police checkpoint on the outskirts of the eastern city of Lahore. At least seven policemen were wounded and two were in critical condition after a car with two men inside blew up as police went to search it.

"By putting their lives in danger, our men have saved the city from enormous sabotage," Lahore Police Chief Pervaiz Rathor told reporters at the scene.

Police checkpoints, where cars are forced to drive slowly past officers looking inside, have become common sights in Pakistan.

Pakistan's president and other top officials condemned the blasts but vowed to press on with the South Waziristan offensive. Taliban militants have de facto control in many of the semiautonomous tribal areas.

The U.S. has reportedly provided technical support to the South Waziristan offensive, seeing the rugged mountain area as a haven for Islamist extremists involved in attacks on Western troops in Afghanistan.

The government has sealed off the battle zone to outsiders, making confirmation of military reports impossible to confirm, but officials insist the offensive is going well.

On Monday, Abbas said the army had captured the Taliban town of Kaniguram and killed 12 militants in the past 24 hours.

Washington, which has long provided massive military assistance to Pakistan, has stepped up its efforts to use development aid in a broader battle against the spreading militancy. The U.S. government recently approved $7.5 billion in aid over five years to improve Pakistan's economy, education and other nonmilitary sectors.

NKorea threatens to expand nuclear arsenal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea issued a veiled threat Monday to increase its nuclear arsenal if U.S. officials do not quickly agree to the one-on-one talks that the communist regime is demanding.

The regime's impatience came days after No. 2 nuclear negotiator Ri Gun came away from meetings with Washington envoy Sung Kim without an agreement to hold bilateral talks.

"If the U.S. is not ready to sit at a negotiating table with the (North), it will go its own way," the North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency.

The statement did not elaborate, but it was widely seen as a warning that the North will bolster its nuclear stockpile—a brinksmanship tactic that the communist nation has often employed.

In September, the North said it was "weaponizing" plutonium, a key ingredient for nuclear bombs, and succeeded in uranium enrichment, which would give the regime a second way to make atomic bombs. That was also seen as a pressure tactic aimed at getting Washington to agree to one-on-one negotiations.

North Korea has mixed such threats with a series of conciliatory moves, such as releasing two detained American journalists, after months of raising tensions with nuclear and missile tests. The North has also quit the six-nation nuclear disarmament talks—which involve China, Japan, Russia, the U.S. and the two Koreas.

North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the Korean War of the 1950s and do not have diplomatic relations. Both nations have tanks and troops on guard at the heavily fortified border dividing the two Koreas.

Pyongyang claims it must develop atomic weapons to defend itself against nuclear threats from the U.S. The regime has long sought direct negotiations with Washington saying it was because of U.S. nuclear threats that the country develop nuclear bombs.

Washington has denied it has any intention of attacking the North. But Defense Secretary Robert Gates assured Seoul last month that Washington was prepared to unleash all military capabilities—including its nuclear might—to defend the longtime ally.

Pyongyang's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper blasted Gates' remarks, saying the U.S. is trying to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

Hospitalized Thai king makes appearance on holiday

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's ailing 81-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej made a brief public appearance Monday, the second during his six-week hospitalization, easing concerns about his health that have shaken the public and the local stock market.

Bhumibol was hospitalized on Sept. 19 with fever, fatigue and lack of appetite. Most Thais revere the monarch, who has been on the throne for 63 years, and are deeply unsure about what will happen in the politically divided nation at the eventual end of his reign.

The king, accompanied by family members and a retinue of aides and nurses, appeared alert but weak as he was taken Monday evening by wheelchair from his hospital room to a nearby pier on the Chao Phraya River, where he briefly celebrated the Loy Krathong holiday.

Bhumibol

During Loy Krathong, Thais set afloat lotus-shaped trays containing flowers, candles and incense with prayers that their misfortunes will drift away and good luck will come. The king was handed one of the floats, which he handed back to an aide to place in the water.

Crowds of well-wishers at the hospital held up Thai flags as the king was wheeled past, and he raised his hand slightly in greeting.

The palace has reported that the king is recovering from an inflammation of the lungs and is in no danger, but his disappearance from the public eye and a lack of details in official bulletins about his health have caused uneasiness.

Rumors that his health was in decline sent the Stock Exchange of Thailand tumbling sharply Oct. 14-15. Police have arrested two people and accused them of spreading the rumors.

Two senior US officials visit Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The United States embarked on a new policy of engagement with Myanmar on Tuesday, sending two senior diplomats for the highest-level visit in more than a decade.

Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campell, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, and his deputy, Scot Marciel, were scheduled to meet senior Myanmar junta officials as well as detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday and Wednesday, embassy spokesman Richard Mei said.

The two-day trip is part of a new U.S. policy that reverses the Bush administration's isolation of Myanmar in favor of direct, high-level talks with a country that has been ruled by the military since 1962.

"Mr. Campbell's visit is the beginning of new U.S engagement policy toward Myanmar. This is the first step of the engagement but we have to see what comes out of the new engagement policy," said Nyan Win, spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

Campbell will be the highest ranking U.S. official to visit Myanmar since a September 1995 trip by then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright.

The American diplomats flew Tuesday from Bangkok, in neighboring Thailand, to Myanmar's administrative capital of Naypyitaw in a U.S. Air Force plane, Mei said.

The embassy spokesman said Campbell will be continuing talks he began in September in New York with senior Myanmar officials, the first such high-level contact in nearly a decade.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban: Canceled Afghan vote proves their success

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban say the canceled runoff election in Afghanistan proves that their efforts to derail the vote with threats and attacks were successful. The Islamist militant group issued a statement Tuesday ahead of a speech by President Hamid Karzai on his recently declared victory. A first round was marred by fraud and Karzai won a runoff vote by default after his only challenger dropped out saying that the election could not be free or fair. According to a statement posted on the Taliban Web site, "Our brave mujahidin were able to disrupt the entire process." The Taliban said their recent attack on a guest house filled with U.N. election workers showed that "even they are not safe in Kabul."

'Grave fears' for those missing in boat disaster

SYDNEY (AP)—Planes and ships searching a remote patch of the Indian Ocean found no signs Tuesday of additional survivors from the sinking of a suspected asylum-seeker boat. Eleven people were believed missing, while 27 were rescued. Merchant ships that responded to distress calls from the stricken vessel plucked dozens from the sea on Monday, a day after it went down. Some of the survivors swam to a life raft dropped by an Australian military plane, officials said. One person taken aboard a rescue vessel died. Australian Home Affairs Minister Brendan O'Connor said a Japanese fishing vessel would join the search Tuesday. The merchant ship LNG Pioneer remained in the area and seven Australian aircraft were also searching the waters. A Taiwanese fishing trawler that had helped rescue survivors was leaving to refuel, he said.

Oil companies urge end to Philippine price caps

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Foreign oil companies have urged the Philippine government to end caps on fuel prices that were imposed to protect customers in the wake of massive typhoon damage, according to a letter published Tuesday. The Joint Foreign Chambers, a collection of chambers of commerce whose members include major oil firms, argued in their letter that a price cap in the northern Philippines would lead to lower fuel imports, shortages and a black market. The ceiling was imposed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as of Oct. 15 following back-to-back storms that killed nearly 1,000 people and inundated rice paddies.

World

Climate delegates call on US for robust policy

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—As China's actions to curb gas emissions garnered praise at U.N. climate talks, the United States came under renewed pressure to come up with a plan to cut pollution blamed for hastening global warming.

Delegates at the weeklong talks in Barcelona pressed Monday for Washington to make specific commitments on reducing carbon emissions and contributing to a global climate fund to help poor countries cope with damage caused by climate change.

"We expect the United States to be able to deliver on one of the major challenges of our century," Denmark's Minister for Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard said.

Delegates expressed frustration Monday that, after two years of talks on drafting a new pact, the U.S. has been unable to make firm commitments because it is waiting for Congress to enact legislation.

World nations hope to finalize a new global warming pact in time for it to be adopted at a major U.N. conference next month in Copenhagen. The deal would replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, but require both industrial countries and developing countries to rein in emissions of carbon and other heat-raising greenhouse gases. Kyoto applied only to industrialized nations, and was rejected by the United States.

Hedegaard noted that President Barack Obama, cited for raising hopes of a more peaceful and climate friendly world, will receive the Nobel Peace Prize in nearby Norway on Dec. 10 - just after the decisive climate conference gets under way.

AP

Greenpeace activists hang a big banner that reads "World Leaders Make Climate Call" at the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain,on Monday, Nov. 2, 2009.

"It's very hard to imagine how the American president can receive the Nobel Prize ... and at the same time has sent an empty-handed delegation to Copenhagen," said the Danish minister, who will chair the Dec. 7-18 talks in Copenhagen.

U.S. chief delegate Jonathan Pershing said the U.S. intended to be part of a deal, but would ensure that any deal it signed would be accepted by Congress. "We don't want to be outside an agreement," he said.

He said the U.S. would avoid the mistake of 1997 when its delegation signed onto the Kyoto Protocol, but found unanimous opposition in Congress and was not submitted for ratification.

In Stockholm, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said EU leaders wanted Obama to clarify the U.S. position on climate change this week as they meet in Washington. Reinfeldt—whose country holds the rotating EU presidency—was traveling to Washington along with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

Clinton eases praise of Israel after Arab concerns

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP)—Trying to mute Arab criticism that the Obama administration had retreated from its tough stance on Israeli settlements, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday softened her praise for Israel's offer to restrain new housing in Palestinian areas.

While Israel was moving in the right direction in its offer to restrict but not stop the settlements, Clinton said, its offer "falls far short" of U.S. expectations.

Clinton said her earlier praise of Israel's offer, during a stop in Jerusalem, had been intended as "positive reinforcement." But her comment drew widespread criticism from Persian Gulf ministers who interpreted it as a U.S drawback on settlements, which have been the main obstacle to a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In a sign of U.S. eagerness to calm Arab concerns, Clinton is extending her trip by one day to fly to Cairo to meet with President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday, her staff announced. She had been scheduled to return to Washington on Tuesday.

Clinton's comments in Jerusalem on Saturday appeared to reflect a realization within the Obama administration that Netanyahu's government will not accept a full-on settlement freeze and that a partial halt may be the best lesser option. Her appeal on Saturday seemed designed to make the Israeli position more palatable to the Palestinians and Arab states.

Clinton had traveled to the region only reluctantly, concerned her visit might be seen as a failure, according to several U.S. officials. She agreed to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders after pressure from the White House, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration thinking.

ElBaradei asks Iran for quick response on nukes

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The head of the U.N. nuclear agency urged Iran on Monday to clarify its response amid mixed signals over a U.S.-backed proposal that would have Tehran ship most of its nuclear material abroad for processing.

Iran's foreign minister said that option still exists while a senior diplomat suggested the opposite. The proposal would have Tehran export 70 percent of its enriched uranium—enough to make a bomb—and then have it returned as fuel for its research reactor.

Tehran's contrasting messages appear designed to keep the international community off balance on how far Iran is ready to go in accepting the original proposal.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly, Mohamed ElBaradei said "a number of questions and allegations relevant to the nature" of Iran's program remained, and he called for confidence building measures on all sides.

"I therefore urge Iran to be as forthcoming as possible in responding soon to my recent proposal, based on the initiative of the U.S., Russia and France, which aimed to engage in a series of measures that could build confidence and trust," ElBaradei said in his final address before stepping down at the end of the month after 12 years as chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"This is a unique and fleeting opportunity to reverse course from confrontation to cooperation and should, therefore, not be missed," he added.

The U.S. and other powers are concerned Iran may be enriching uranium for use in nuclear weapons, while Tehran insists its program is strictly for research and energy production.

Iran's mixed messages also appeared geared toward pushing the plan's main backers into further talks, something those countries oppose as a delaying tactic.

Half of Iraqis killed in October died in one attack

BAGHDAD (AP)—Nearly half of all Iraqis who died in October perished in a single coordinated attack against government offices in Baghdad, a tally by The Associated Press showed Monday.

Of the 364 Iraqis killed over the past month, according to the AP count, 155 died in two nearly simultaneous bombs targeting government buildings Oct. 25 in downtown Baghdad—the worst coordinated attack in more than two years.

The impact of the devastating bombing, which occurred in one of the most protected parts of the capital, continues to be felt as the government struggles to convince Iraqis it can protect them.

The government blamed an alliance of al-Qaida in Iraq and members of Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baath party for similar bombings in August of the Justice and Finance ministries that killed about 100 people and has called for an international investigation, particular with regard to the role of neighboring Syria.

In a nod toward Iraqi concerns, special U.N. envoy Oscar Fernandez-Taranco met Monday with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and senior government officials as part of "preliminary consultations on the incidents surrounding" the Aug. 19 and Oct. 25 blasts.

Fernandez-Taranco said Monday he had come to Baghdad to "listen to the government of Iraq's concerns" over security and sovereignty issues.

The U.N.'s decision to send the special envoy to Baghdad came before the October attacks.

April was the deadliest month in Iraq this year with 451 killed, according to the AP count, followed by June with 448 and August with 425 Iraqis killed.

The AP began tracking war-related violence in Iraq in May 2005. The tally includes civilian, Iraqi military and Iraqi police deaths each day as reported by police, hospital officials, morgue workers and verifiable witness accounts. Insurgent deaths are not included.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine closes all schools to fight swine flu

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Urging its citizens not to panic, Ukraine on Monday closed the nation's schools for a week to avoid the spread of swine flu and suggested that nightclubs, cinemas and food markets in the west also shut down. The World Health Organization said Monday there was no evidence that Ukraine had a bad outbreak of swine flu but at the government's request it had sent a health team there to help the country cope. "But this is not an indication that the situation is severe," said WHO spokeswoman Liuba Negru. "The information we have gotten (from the government), we have to double-check it and make sure it is real, evidence-based information."

Panama building 4 anti-drug sea, air stations

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Panama's government is building four air and sea monitoring stations to fight trafficking of drugs, weapons and migrants. The bases are to be located on the Pacific coast on routes used to smuggle drugs and transport laundered money. Assistant Interior Minister Alejandro Garuz said Monday the sites will be manned by the national police, border agents and other government agencies. He says the bases are a completely Panamanian initiative and the United States will not be involved.

Tower of London Beefeaters suspended for bullying

LONDON (AP)—Women faced their share of trouble at the Tower of London, including three queens who were beheaded there. But treachery has long been considered a thing of the past at the notorious 11th century fortress. At least until now. If charges made Monday are true, the Tower—a popular tourist attraction and home to Britain's Crown Jewels—will add bullying to the list of foul deeds committed there. The victim: the first woman selected to join the all-male ranks of the Tower's yeoman warders, popularly known as "Beefeaters." Moira Cameron—a veteran of long military service—was named a warder at the Tower two years ago. Hers was supposed to be a happy story about how a bastion of male supremacy could become a place where women, too, could serve queen and country. On Monday, embarrassed Tower officials conceded that Cameron had apparently been subjected to a campaign of bullying and harassment conducted by some of her resentful male colleagues. They said two male warders have been suspended and a third is under investigation for suspected harassment of Cameron.

Campus Life

SSHS takes lead in celebrating Teen Read Week

Saipan Southern High School celebrated Teen Read Week in October, joining thousands of school libraries throughout the country in encouraging teens to read a wide variety of materials and read for pleasure.

"I'm glad that there are members of the community who are making some time to take interest in what our local teens are reading. Studies show that when an adult figure reads to them, there are better chances of the youth to read," said Sudi Napalan, the SSHS school librarian.

Among those who showed up at Saipan Southern High to help celebrate the week was parent Jill Arenovski, who did a stamping demonstration for the students, and Rep. Tina Sablan, who read aloud an excerpt from Edgar Allan Poe's *The Pit and the Pendulum.*

Teen Read Week is celebrated annually on the third week of October. This year's Teen Read Week is on Oct. 19-23, 2009. The event kicked off with a proclamation signing on Oct. 16, 2009, with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos signing off on the occasion.

Teen Read Week is a national adolescent literacy initiative of the Young Adult Services Association, the fastest growing division of the American Library Association. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School students enjoy a stamping demonstration from one of the parents, Jill Arenovski. The event was hosted by the Book Club members in celebration of the Teen Read Week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Tina Sablan takes a lunch break and reads to Saipan Southern High School students at the school library. Sablan read aloud an excerpt from Edgar Allan Poe's *The Pit and the Pendulum*.

Rota school marks Red Ribbon Week

As a way to promote better decision making, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students from Rota joined other schools in Guam and the U.S. mainland, along with the officers and staff from the Pacific Regional Training Institute, in participating in this year's Red Ribbon Week activities on Oct. 23 - 31, 2009.

Starting Oct. 23, the PRTI kicked off their Drug Abuse Resistance Education program at ESFDB and hosted a series of events designed to give students the opportunity to learn more about specific areas where better decision making can make a big difference.

According to PRTI regional supervisor Edward Maratita Jr., the campaign began the tradition of wearing a red ribbon as a symbol of intolerance toward the use of drugs. Maratita encouraged the Rota community to wear red ribbons during the week to promote substance abuse awareness, and find new and innovative ways to keep kids drug-free.

The Red Ribbon campaign was started over 20 years ago when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered Kiki Camarena, a DEA agent.

Camerena's family, friends and neighbors began wearing red ribbons to show their support and let everyone know they would continue his fight against illegal drugs.

At ESFDB, the week was held not only as a way to promote the drug-free lifestyle, but also to encourage students to make better choices in all aspects of their lives.

Topics discussed during the week included drug and alcohol awareness, gang violence, reckless driving, domestic violence, and terrorism in school community.

"We're glad that ESFDB students from Rota are celebrating Red Ribbon Week. This is the fourth year ESFDB students had taken part in this nationwide drug prevention campaign," said PRTI director Jon Takamura.

Other events held during the Red Ribbon Week celebration were the 5k Run/Walk, Halloween Costume Contest, and Halloween Candy & Cookie Gram fundraising.

The PRTI and ESFDB DARE/GUTS/GREAT Student Body Association extend its appreciation to all parents, friends, donors, Barrigada Vice Mayor June U. Blas (Guam), the Guam Fire Department, Paul and Kendra Tanaka (Hawaii), Jeffrey Sai (Hawaii), Honolulu Federal Credit Union (Hawaii), Bay Breeze Restaurant, and the Rota community for the support given to the students. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja prepare for the kickoff of the DARE/GUTS/GREAT Red Ribbon Week celebration, which was held from Oct. 23 to Oct. 31, 2009. From left, Chuck Barcinas, ESFDB GUTS student body president Angelique Perez, Kish Doromal, Rhea Costales, Rochelle Masga, ESFDB DARE student body president Vannah Dior Hocog, ESFDB GREAT student body president Randee Jo Barcinas, ESFDB STUCO president Maricel Atalig, and Manuel Atalig. Not in photo is their teacher adviser, Mary Rose Lucero, and PRTI supervisor SFC. Edward C. Maratita Jr.

GUTS program takes roots on Rota

As part of its drug and prevention program, the Pacific Regional Training Institute provides tremendous growth potential for the GUTS (Get Up and Try Something) program. PRTI has been exploring ways to develop a positive leadership program for young kids, and the opportunity to implement GUTS fulfills this interest and allows the organization to more fully meet its mission of empowering young kids.

At the same time, GUTS aims to focus more time and resources on children's health and fitness within and beyond. PRTI has a unique opportunity to contribute to a burgeoning children's health and fitness movement, and has worked diligently over the last few years to implement a strategic plan to expand its influence on a regional and national level.

The new relationship between GUTS, DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) will not affect the existing curriculum and philosophy of the GUTS program.

PRTI is very proud to have created and nurtured GUTS over the last four years at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, and they are confident that the school will continue to carry on with the program. The generous financial support from foundations, individuals, and program participants enabled PRTI to build a successful program that will help cultivate the next generation of healthy, active and capable young leaders.

Due to the limited facilities on the island of Rota, the GUTS program had to make due with what it has to offer. The program started out with swimming activities at a sponsored hotel or at the beach. The GUTS program is still ongoing with off-island trips being anticipated.

The PRTI officers and staff acknowledged Mateo and Rosita Santos, Sgt. Bill Hocog, Mary Rose Lucero, Jesus Ledesma, parents, and guardians for their support to the program. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja present an appreciation certificate to Rota Coconut Village Hotel management and staff. From left, PRTI Student Body representative Fortunato Manglona Jr., ESFDB DARE student body president Vannah Dior Hocog; Katsotushi Furuichi, accepting on behalf of Rota Coconut Village; Rota Police Sgt. Bill Manglona, ESFDB STUCO president Maricel Atalig, and ESFDB GUTS student body president Angelique Perez. Not in photo is PRTI supervisor Edward C. Maratita Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third and fourth grade students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja enjoy one of the activities offered by the PRTI GUTS program.

Life & Style

Hollywood gushes bloodsuckers in vampire boom

DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP—Vampires have been an eternal force in Hollywood horror since silent-movie days, yet they have risen to new heights as the "Twilight" franchise, TV's "True Blood" and other incarnations put the bite on viewers.

In studio flicks, independent and foreign-language films and small-screen series, there are more bloodsuckers out there today than you can shake a wooden stake at.

With so many vampires afoot, will Hollywood's favorite night creatures lose their flavor with fans?

"Will there be a vampire glut? Will the vampire market crash? I don't know," said Chris Weitz, director of November's "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," part two in the movie series based on Stephenie Meyer's vampire-romance novels. "It's kind of the only growth industry in America, that I can tell."

So many of Dracula's brethren are being sired nowadays that Weitz and his brother have dueling vampire films out this fall.

Paul Weitz's "Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant" opens Friday, with John C. Reilly as a centuries-old bloodsucker in a traveling freak show.

While vampires have a strong pulse in Hollywood, some expect the genre could bleed out from overexposure.

"Sometimes there are trends with audiences and with film studios, TV stations, and they go wild, and they run like lemmings in one direction until they go over the cliff," said Werner Herzog, who directed 1979's "Nosferatu the Vampyre." ''The genre of vampire films in its darkness and in its nightmarish aspect is a genre that will be forever, but sometimes, you have an overload, an overkill, and when the heap gets too, too big, everybody starts to turn away."

In his 2007 Antarctica documentary "Encounters at the End of the World," Herzog wisecracked that he was not making yet another movie about penguins, a reference to a spate of films on the cold-weather birds.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Summit Entertainment, Robert Pattinson portrays Edward Cullen, left, and Kristen Stewart portrays Bella Swan in a scene from "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

Penguins reached a glut after only a handful of movies, but the sheer variety of vampire stories lends them superhuman durability for exploring the issues and fears of mortals.

"I think vampires are richer veins than penguins," Reilly said. "There's only so much you can do with penguins. They're cute. They can't fly. They live in snow and ice."

Vampires benefit from modern fans' hunger for fantastic stories. Otherworldly tales once were aimed mostly at specialized horror, science-fiction or fantasy audiences, with a "Star Wars" or an "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" occasionally breaking out to huge crowds.

Movie-goers today besiege theaters for out-of-this-world stories, from "Harry Potter" and "The Lord of the Rings" to the latest adventures of Batman or the X-Men.

"We're at a supernatural height right now with superheroes and science fiction. I think it's all being embraced, with 'Battlestar Galactica' being a critical hit and 'Iron Man' being a huge mainstream hit," said Meredith Woerner, whose book "Vampire Taxonomy: Identifying and Interacting With the Modern-day Bloodsucker" hits stores in early November. "It's a great time where people are ready for some magic."

Vampires have been hardy souls on screen for ages, dating back to 1920s and '30s classics such as "Nosferatu," ''Vampyr" and the original "Dracula," with Bela Lugosi. Dracula has been played by countless actors, among them Lon Chaney Jr., Christopher Lee, Frank Langella and Gary Oldman.

Movies and shows such as "The Lost Boys" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" transfused teen power to vampire tales, helping to open the current vein of hip, pretty young dead things in the genre.

"What's particular about them now is it's coinciding with the optimum market for TV and film. It's that young market, it's kind of the 'Dawson's Creek' thing," said Michael Sheen, who co-stars as the vampire Aro in the "Twilight" sequel and played a werewolf in the "Underworld" vampire franchise. "Whereas in the past, I don't think that has been the case. The symbol of vampires has never quite hit that marketing gold."

Along with "True Blood," recent TV bloodsucker sagas include "The Vampire Diaries," ''Blood Ties," ''Moonlight" and Britain's "Young Dracula" and "Being Human."

Among recent and upcoming big-screen stories are "Blood: The Last Vampire," the horror comedy "Transylmania," Ethan Hawke's vampire armageddon thriller "Daybreakers" and foreign-language vamp tales such as Sweden's "Let the Right One In" and South Korea's "Thirst."

"Twilight" leads the way, its love story between an immortal vampire stud (Robert Pattinson) and a sensitive school girl (Kristen Stewart) proving irresistible to teen and older audiences alike.

So far, fans seem willing to devour as many vampire stories as Hollywood can dish out.

"The truth is, you can't have too many vampire movies, just like you can't have too many zombie movies. Each movie is capable of being allegories for different things," said "Cirque du Freak" star Reilly. "Ours is this whole other universe for vampires that have nothing to do with Dracula or good-looking teenagers making out. It's this crazy underworld that exists, more like 'Harry Potter' than 'Twilight,' because the regular human world doesn't even know they're there."

While their popularity may ebb and flow, vampires always will have a place in the audience's heart, said Nicolas Cage, who starred in 1989's "Vampire's Kiss" and was a producer on 2000's "Shadow of the Vampire."

"The vampire is always going to be fascinating," Cage said. "It's like the vigilante cop, or it's like the cowboy or the Western. It's part of the fabric of society."

George Jones: new country music needs a new name

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country Music Hall of Famer George Jones isn't a big fan of where the genre has moved in recent years.

When asked about what he thought about music by today's top country stars, the 78-year-old said while they are good, "they've stolen our identity."

Jones made the comment during a recent interview when asked about music by artists like Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift.

"They had to use something that was established already, and that's traditional country music. So what they need to do really, I think, is find their own title, because they're definitely not traditional country music," he said.

"It's good to know that we still do traditional country music. Alan Jackson still does it, so does George Strait. We still have it, and there's quite a few of us that are going to hope that it comes back one of these days."

Still, his contemporaries haven't always stuck to traditional country, either. Fellow Hall of Fame member Johnny Cash was met with critical acclaim a few years ago by covering the Nine Inch Nails song "Hurt." Asked whether he'd ever branch out to a completely different genre of music, like heavy metal or rap, Jones laughed and said: "Rap? That's tacky."

"How can you call that music?" he added. "Now, I love music, too. I love all kinds. I really do. I've got Brook Benton. I like his singing. Ray Charles. I've got an open mind. But now, you can't call rap, talking stuff like that, music. No, no, no, you've got to have another name for that."

Jones recently put out a new CD, through Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, called "A Collection of My Best Recollection." It includes some of his most requested songs from throughout his career, including classics like "White Lightning" and "I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair," as well as two previously unreleased ones.

"Only thing I would like to keep accomplishing is music for my fans and achieving some goals to keep them happy with what I record in the future," Jones said. "I've done just about everything else. The good Lord's been good to me ... I'm going to enjoy the rest of my life."

BOOK REVIEW

Book artfully chronicles women's revolution

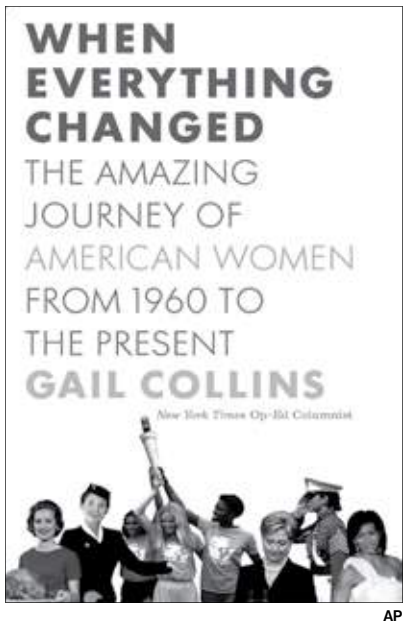
By RASHA MADKOUR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

"When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present" (Little, Brown and Company, 480 pages, $27.99), by Gail Collins

In 1960, a secretary named Lois Rabinowitz was reprimanded by a New York City judge for appearing in court wearing slacks. Less than 50 years later in the same city, bus driver Tahita Jenkins was fired from her job because she refused to wear slacks.

This full circle is symbolic of Gail Collins' "When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present," which is riveting and remarkably thorough in its account of this tumultuous period.

"A generation that was born into a world where women were decreed to have too many household chores to permit them to serve on juries, and where a spokesman for NASA would say that any 'talk of an American spacewoman makes me sick to my stomach,' would come of age in a society where female astronauts and judges were routine," Collins writes in her introduction.



AP

In this book cover image released by Little, Brown and Company, "When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present" by Gail Collins is shown.

The book is full of anecdotes that show that change didn't come easy. In the 1970s, for example, Billie Jean King won three Wimbledon titles—and hefty prize money—in a single year but was unable to get a credit card unless it was in the name of her husband, a law student with no income. A woman who attended Columbia Journalism School and applied for a position at The New York Times was told that a cafeteria job might be available. (That would-be journalist, Madeleine Kunin, would visit the Times' editorial board in later years, as Vermont's first female governor.)

As the country started to get used to the idea of women seeking serious careers, Sandra Day O'Connor was among the pioneering women who managed to "have it all" and be successful in a way that didn't threaten men, Collins writes. The first woman on the Supreme Court was not only "clearly prepared" when the attorney general came to her home to interview her for the position, she had also made a salmon mousse lunch for him and his assistant—and was recovering from a recent hysterectomy, which she never mentioned.

One of the biggest challenges, however, continues to be the lack of affordable child care for working mothers. Collins quotes Michelle Obama talking about the president's sister and her husband, both with Ph.D.s, wondering whether to have a second child, since the additional child care costs would wipe out one of their incomes.

The book concludes with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sarah Palin's history-making races for the White House, which transformed the political conversation.

Carrie Underwood looks for something different

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Pop-country has made superstars out of acts like Rascal Flatts, Taylor Swift and more, but the term is not particularly endearing in Nashville, even to the artists who have come to define it.

"I hate saying pop-country—I hate using that," Carrie Underwood says during a recent interview while talking about some of her favorite artists.

Underwood, who has sold more than 10 million albums since her 2005 debut with hits that have appealed to both the MTV and CMT set, prefers to describe such music as "contemporary." But she acknowledges the sonic shift between some of her childhood idols and today's country stars.

"I loved Alan Jackson and Brooks & Dunn, those were the people that really first made me love country music. Then there were people like Bryan White who were like coming on the scene," the 26-year-old Oklahoma native explains. "And he was like one of the people that was like 'OK, they don't have to all sound like this.' People can sound all kind of ways. And he was young and hot."

"I've had people tell me, 'I never listened to country music until I saw you on "American Idol," and now I've been to a Rascal Flatts concerts, and I went and saw so and so,'" she adds. "And it's wonderful that we all kind of have our place in country music and we all pull listeners in for different reasons, and because of that we can hear everything."

Her third album, "Play On," out this week, stretches her country boundaries even further. Not only did the she reteam with "American Idol" judge and pop hitmaker Kara DioGuardi, who worked with her on her multiplatinum sophomore album, "Carnival Ride," she also worked with producers known for producing smashes for the likes of Britney Spears, Kelly Clarkson and Katy Perry (Max Martin), and Eminem (Mike Elizondo).

AP

Country music singer Carrie Underwood poses in Nashville, Tenn., on Friday, Oct. 30, 2009.

"I love all kinds of music and I think it's all kinds of fun when you take a slightly different element and you bring it to you and incorporate that into your music," she says.

There are high expectations for "Play On." Underwood, whose debut CD "Some Hearts" sold about 6 million copies and whose second album sold nearly 3 million, is expected to debut at the top with this record.

But not everyone was happy about her choice of collaborators on "Play On."

"I think everybody kind of freaked out at first. And it was something that we did take into consideration, that people would be like, 'What's going on here?'" she recalls.

"Everybody kind of flipped out over Mike Elizondo, who I really like," she says of the producer and songwriter, who co-wrote the CD's first single, "Cowboy Casanova," a country and pop hit. "They're like, 'He's a rap producer.' And it's like, well, yes, he has done that, but he's also worked with Nelly Furtado and Pink and Fiona Apple. I'm just another name he's adding to his resume of all different kinds of music."

"Play On" is still very much country—there's banjo, pedal steel and mandolin—but Underwood has added different musical textures, which points to her maturation as an artist.

"I'm not trying to move anywhere away from country music," she declares while sitting in a production studio, dressed comfortably in jeans, a T-shirt and sandals. "I love what I do. And let's say 'Cowboy Casanova' crosses over, it's going to cross over as it is—fiddles, steel and all. Growing up I never liked it when people would have a country song and then change it for a different format."

And while Underwood had great pop success, she's still firmly a country queen. She nabbed the Academy of Country Music's entertainer of the year this spring, and has four nominations for Nov. 11's Country Music Association awards, for which she will also serve as host for the second straight year.

But Underwood is adept at bridging the gaps between country and pop, and does so again on "Play On." During one stint in Los Angeles, Underwood and songwriter Luke Laird, a friend who wrote several songs on "Carnival Ride," teamed up with DioGuardi and Marti Frederiksen to produce two of the album's most interesting tracks, "Undo It" and "Mama's Song."

The two songs couldn't be more different. "Undo It," with its revved up banjo intro and na-na-na chorus, is a great spurned love song.

"I like to be sassy. I'm a smart aleck and it's just fun to have a little sass," says Underwood.

"Mama's Song" is a straight-up love tune about helping a mother gain trust for a good man who wants to marry her daughter. The presence of her boyfriend, Ottawa Senators center Mike Fisher, can be felt on the song, the most personal of the seven Underwood wrote for the album.

"I think a lot of girls around her age are thinking about getting married," said Laird. "I think that was probably easier for her to write—not that she's thinking about getting married. I wouldn't know."

For the record, she's not getting married. But she feels comfortable enough in the relationship that it's starting to show through in her work—and add depth to it as well.

"This has been kind of my first attempt at love songs," Underwood says. "And I think there's a reason for that. I think it's because I'm a private person anyway, and I'm not so great with emotions. I consider myself more boyish in that way, so I'm pretty closed off. But you know when you're happy in your life, you can just kind of tell."

'Precious' makes a 'surreal' premiere in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The cast and crew of "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" continued their unexpected journey from a scrappy little screening 10 months ago at the Sundance Film Festival to a star-studded gala at the legendary Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

"I'm speechless," said director Lee Daniels at an event hosted by the American Film Institute on Sunday. "I'm humbled and speechless. That's the best way to describe it. I just can't... I wish I had the words. Dreamlike? Sort of surreal."

The dark urban drama, which opens in U.S. cinemas on Friday, follows Clareece "Precious" Jones, an overweight, illiterate and abused Harlem teen who is pregnant with her second child and invited to enroll in an alternative school in hopes that her life will head in a new direction.

While at Sundance, where the $10-million film took top honors, Daniels got a call from Oprah Winfrey, who ultimately joined fellow entertainment mogul Tyler Perry in serving as after-the-fact executive producers.

Shortly thereafter, Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe, who marks her film debut in the title role, had an audience with Winfrey.

"Unfortunately, I forgot everything about it," Sidibe recalled. "It's so weird, because she's such a big deal to me, that when she speaks, I don't hear anything. It's like it's so weird. It's like hysterical blindness in a way. All I can remember is her saying my name over and over, and that can't be right."

"Precious" has earned strong critical notices for two unlikely recipients: Mariah Carey and Mo'Nique.

Mo'Nique, the stand-up comic, talk-show diva and comic-actor, plays Clareece's monstrous, abusive mother. "I got a phone call from Mr. Daniels, and he said, 'I've got something that might mess up your career.' I said, 'Sign me up,'" she said.

Carey has a role as social worker—a small part, but one the music superstar views as a milestone in her acting career. "I mean I had one milestone that almost had me under the stone," she laughed, referring to the 2001 bomb "Glitter."

"I didn't realize that you really have to be selective with the people that you work with and you have to have that support system and you have to work with people that you feel are geniuses and Lee Daniels is a genius in my book, so I'm grateful."

Other gala attendees Sunday included Winfrey and Perry, who posed for photographers but didn't speak to press. Also present were novelist Sapphire, "Precious" costars Paula Patton (with musician husband Robin Thicke) and Sherri Shepherd, as well as Carey's musician husband Nick Cannon and Mary J. Blige, who co-wrote one of the film's original songs. Like the film, it's an Oscar shoo-in, according to some key award-season pundits—all of whom director Daniels is trying to ignore.

"My way of dealing with (Oscar buzz) is not to embrace it," he explained. "I did the movie after I thought it was (only) going to DVD. Now I'm here on the freakin' red carpet talking to ya'll and it's like, that, that is the win. Oprah Winfrey is like behind the movie. I mean, come on. I'm gonna be able to tell my kids that forever."

Oral arguments scheduled in Polanski's CA appeal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California appeals court will listen to oral arguments from Roman Polanski's attorneys about why it should require a lower court to decide whether to dismiss charges against the fugitive director, whether he is present or not.

Polanski in July appealed a Los Angeles Superior Court judge's decision not to dismiss the criminal case because the director didn't appear for a hearing. The California Second District Court of Appeal on Monday set oral arguments for Dec. 10.

Polanski

Los Angeles authorities have considered the Oscar-winning director a fugitive since he fled the United States in February 1978 just before he was to be sentenced for unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl.

The appeal was filed before Polanski's arrest in Switzerland on Sept. 25. He has resisted efforts to return him to Los Angeles. Extradition paperwork filed by U.S. authorities states the maximum sentence that Polanski, 76, faces is two years in prison.

Polanski's French attorney has filed a new bail offer with Swiss authorities in an attempt to free the Oscar-winning filmmaker.

Lawyer Herve Temime said the offer Monday includes "adequate guarantees" that Polanski will not flee justice if released. Polanski is awaiting a decision on extradition to the United States.

Switzerland's Justice Ministry rejected a bail offer Friday, considering Polanski a high flight risk. They noted it was not a cash offer.

Temime said Sunday the new offer would include a "very, very significant" cash amount, but he gave no further details Monday.

The California appellate court's decision to schedule oral arguments came 10 days after prosecutors and Polanski's attorneys filed supplemental briefs on why the appeal should either be heard or dismissed.

Prosecutors have consistently argued that Polanski needs to be present for the judge to consider whether to dismiss the case against him. They argued the appeal should be barred by Polanski's status as a fugitive, and that his arrest has rendered the case moot since there is now a chance that he will be returned to the United States.

Polanski's attorneys, however, argued his status as a fugitive shouldn't disqualify his appeal. The Superior Court judge should be required to decide whether to dismiss the case because of a judge's misconduct in handling Polanski's original criminal case, they stated in court filings.

They also contend that because of the previous misconduct, Polanski should not have to attend the hearing.

Polanski's victim, Samantha Geimer, has repeatedly asked for dismissal of the charges against Polanski. Her attorney filed a declaration in the appeals case last month, stating that the case's reemergence has caused her undisclosed health issues and problems at her workplace.

She sued Polanski years after he fled, and the director agreed to pay a $500,000 settlement to her. It is unclear how much of the money she received.

Scrooge rings in Hollywood's holiday spirit

In this film publicity image released by Disney, Ebenezer Scrooge, voiced by Jim Carrey is shown carrying Tiny Tim, voiced by Gary Oldman are shown in a scene from "A Christmas Carol." AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood loves money. So does Ebenezer Scrooge. So what better way to launch the holiday season than putting the old money-grubber at the head of the line to separate movie-goers from their cash?

The latest version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" features Jim Carrey as Scrooge. Coming on Ebenezer's coattails will be everything from vampire romance ("The Twilight Saga: New Moon") and end-of-the-world stories ("2012," "The Road") to epic science fiction ("Avatar") and a new incarnation of the world's greatest detective ("Sherlock Holmes").

Presented in 3-D, "Disney's A Christmas Carol" is the latest from Oscar-winning director Robert Zemeckis ("Forrest Gump"), who presents Dickens' London with the same performance-capture technology he used on "The Polar Express" and "Beowulf."

Carrey and such co-stars as Gary Oldman, Robin Wright Penn, Colin Firth and Bob Hoskins worked on a bare soundstage, their bodies covered with sensors so digital cameras could record their performances in 360 degrees. Sets, costumes and other details were filled in later by computer animation.

The process allowed actors to take on multiple roles, with Carrey playing Scrooge and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come that teach him the meaning of the season.

While Zemeckis loves Alastair Sim's 1951 "A Christmas Carol," he said previous adaptations never captured the full impact of Dickens' surreal images. As he made "Beowulf," Zemeckis realized he now had the tools to bring "A Christmas Carol" to the screen the way he imagined it on the page.

"It was the idea of being able to actually recreate London and not have any limitations whatsoever. Anything that existed at the time we could present," Zemeckis said. "Then the idea that Jim could play Scrooge in all the different ages, and the ghosts, they could be his alter-ego, and he could play those. Everything just fell into place."

With "Sherlock Holmes," Robert Downey Jr. and director Guy Ritchie also recreate old London while reinventing Arthur Conan Doyle's brainy, monkish detective as an action hero, verbal quipster—and even a bit of a lover.

Downey's Holmes fights with fists, clubs, pistols and hammers, trades odd-couple banter with best buddy and roommate Watson (Jude Law), and shares romantic moments with the only woman (Rachel McAdams) who ever got the better of him.

It was a nice change of pace for Downey after he leaped to the box-office A-list with last year's comic-book blockbuster "Iron Man."

"It was such a radical departure," Downey said. "A period piece. A very, very established kind of iconic image comes to mind when you think of Sherlock Holmes. Whereas Iron Man was a relatively unknown quote-unquote second tier superhero ... until last year."

Another series that jumped to blockbuster status last year was Hollywood's take on author Stephenie Meyer's love story between a sensitive schoolgirl (Kristen Stewart) and her immortal vampire boy toy (Robert Pattinson).

The second installment, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," is a lesson in teen heartache as Pattinson's Edward dumps Stewart's Bella, realizing the danger he represents to his human girlfriend.

The brooding Bella finds solace with a school chum (Taylor Lautner) and his werewolf gang and eventually winds up pulling Edward out of a jam.

"Edward breaks up with Bella for her own protection, but Bella believes it's because he doesn't love her any more, and she goes into a terrible depression," said "New Moon" director Chris Weitz. "In the end, there's kind of a lovely turnaround whereby Bella has to go and save Edward, having been saved by him throughout their past."

Also in the fantasy realm, James Cameron is back with his first fictional film since 1997's "Titanic" swamped Hollywood to become king of the Oscars and the biggest modern blockbuster. "Avatar" also marks Cameron's return to his science-fiction roots and a reunion with "Aliens" star Sigourney Weaver, who joins Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana among the cast of the filmmaker's 3-D epic about humans taking on the form of extraterrestrials as they explore a distant world.

"What we have on the screen right now is 150 percent of what I imagined. The other 50 percent is the part I could not have imagined without having the actors there, without working with a team of artists who come up with all these amazing, outlandish designs," Cameron said. "My job was really kind of herding the cats, getting the artists to kind of be cohesive about the aesthetic decision, so it was all one world, so it seemed like part of an evolutionary or ecological system."

Hollywood has dozens of other films, big and small, coming before year's end. Here's the lowdown on some highlights:

Husbands, Wives and Lovers

"Chicago" director Rob Marshall orchestrates his latest musical with "Nine," based on the Broadway adaptation of Federico Fellini's foreign-language classic "8 1/2."

It's the story of a filmmaker (Daniel Day-Lewis) and his many, many women: His wife (Marion Cotillard), his mistress (Penelope Cruz), his mom (Sophia Loren), his film star (Nicole Kidman), his costume designer (Judi Dench), a lover from his youth (Stacy Ferguson), and a fashion journalist (Kate Hudson).

Singing in a recording studio was a new challenge for some of the cast, including Cruz.

"You feel very vulnerable, because you can't hide anything," Cruz said at this year's Cannes Film Festival. "But it was so much fun. After you are there and you start singing and everything starts to come together, if you can really be in the moment and enjoy it, it's an amazing experience."

Also in the mood for love:

"Did You Hear About the Morgans?"—A Manhattan couple (Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant) in a rocky marriage find new twists in their relationship after they see a murder and are hustled into witness protection.

"It's Complicated"—A messy love triangle develops among a bakery and restaurant owner (Meryl Streep), her ex-hubby (Alec Baldwin) and an architect (Steve Martin) in the latest from director Nancy Meyers ("Something's Gotta Give").

Foxes, Frogs and Rodents

Meryl Streep also joins George Clooney and Bill Murray among the voice cast of Wes Anderson's animated comedy "Fantastic Mr. Fox," the tale of a wily fox waging war with human farmers.

Anderson gave his voice actors a taste of rustic life by taking them to a real farm to record the vocals.

"It was like going to camp," Clooney said at October's London Film Festival, where "Fantastic Mr. Fox" was the opening-night movie. "We were out in the middle of nowhere on people's farms, doing sound effects and rolling around in the fields."

Also among the menagerie: "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel"—The followup to the family hit about critter crooners Alvin, Simon and Theodore has the threesome finding their hearts and singing talents tested in a battle of the bands against a trio of female chipmunks.

"The Princess and the Frog"—Disney animation goes old-school as the studio releases its first hand-drawn cartoon in five years with this update of "The Frog Prince" fairy tale, set on the jazzy Louisiana bayou.

The End of the World

The Mayan calendar predicted an end of days in 2012.

Director Roland Emmerich makes good on that prophecy with his latest doomsday story "2012," featuring John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Thandie Newton and Danny Glover in a tale of a world devastated by cataclysm and struggling with a terrible quandary: Who do you choose when you can save only a fraction of humanity?

"It's like a Noah's Ark story in a way," Cusack said. "It mirrors a few of the ethical dilemmas that are posed by asking the question of who gets to go and who doesn't."

Also on the apocalypse front:

"The Road"—Author Cormac McCarthy's starkly poetic vision of doom comes to the screen in this adaptation starring Viggo Mortensen as a father on a desperate road trip across the wreckage of America, seeking some hope of a future for his young son.

Inspiration on the Playing Field

Clint Eastwood taps "Million Dollar Baby" and "Unforgiven" co-star Morgan Freeman to play Nelson Mandela in "Invictus," a post-apartheid drama about the South African president rallying black and white behind his country's rugby team during an underdog run in the 1995 World Cup.

Matt Damon, who co-stars as the captain of South Africa's rugby squad, said Freeman was the only choice to play Mandela.

"Someone would have been keelhauled if he hadn't played that role," Damon said.

Also from the wide world of sports:

"The Blind Side"—Just in time for his rookie season with the Baltimore Ravens comes this real-life drama about Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), a black youth surviving on his own who gets a shot at a better life after he's adopted by a white couple (Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw).

Family Affairs

"Lord of the Rings" mastermind Peter Jackson turns to the homefront while keeping a foot in otherworldly realms with "The Lovely Bones," an adaptation of Alice Sebold's novel about a slain girl (Saoirse Ronan) watching over her family from heaven.

The cast includes Rachel Weisz, Mark Wahlberg, Susan Sarandon and Stanley Tucci.

Jackson said he cried when he read the novel.

"If the things that I was imagining that made me cry could be put on screen, I thought this would be really amazing," Jackson said. "Because I think the book is an incredible book, but it's very personal. And I think what you get out of that book depends a lot on what experience you've had in your life and what experience of death that you've had, and losing loved ones."

Also in a family way:

"Up in the Air"—Happily living life without connections, a corporate hatchet man (George Clooney) travels the country aiming for a 10 million-mile frequent-flyer milestone only to discover that family bonds might be the greater value, after all.

"Old Dogs"—A divorced guy (Robin Williams) enlists his womanizing best buddy and business partner (John Travolta) to help care for the twin kids he never knew he had.

"Brothers"—Jim Sheridan directs this reversal-of-roles drama about siblings (Tobey Maguire and Jake Gyllenhaal), one a Marine presumed dead in Afghanistan, the other a black sheep who becomes man of the house for his brother's wife (Natalie Portman).

"Everybody's Fine"—Robert De Niro co-stars with Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell in the story of a widower who sets off to reconnect with his grown kids in this remake of the Italian original from Giuseppe Tornatore.

Man charged with stalking Ryan Seacrest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors brought felony charges Monday against an Army reservist who allegedly stalked Ryan Seacrest, including showing up at the "American Idol" host's studio and attacking one of his bodyguards.

Chidi Benjamin Uzomah Jr., 25, faces up to four years in prison if convicted of the stalking charge.

AP

In this Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Television personality Ryan Seacrest poses on the press line at the Elton John Academy Award viewing and after party in West Hollywood, Calif.

He was arrested Friday after he appeared at the E! Entertainment Television headquarters and tried to see Seacrest, whose radio show is produced at the location. A restraining order petition filed by Seacrest's attorneys stated he was carrying a knife.

"His aggressive and violent efforts to come into physical contact with me are extremely frightening to me," Seacrest wrote in a declaration for the restraining order Friday. "They have jeopardized not only my personal safety, but also the safety and well-being of those around me."

It is not his first brush with the law related to his Seacrest obsession.

Uzomah is on probation after pleading guilty in September to assault, battery and carrying a switchblade knife in Orange County after he attempted to meet Seacrest after an event and attacked one of the radio and television host's bodyguards. The charges were all misdemeanors.

Soon after his plea, Uzomah allegedly went to the offices of a radio station that airs Seacrest's morning show, not realizing Seacrest wasn't there. He then was arrested after showing up at the E! building last week.

Jail records do not indicate whether Uzomah has an attorney and attempts to locate a working phone number were unsuccessful.

Uzomah is a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve and serves as a combat medic, Army Lt. Col. Nathan Banks said Monday. He first joined Army National Guard in 2005 and was honorably discharged earlier this year, but returned to the Reserve in August.

Leno says he'd return to 'Tonight' if NBC asked

NEW YORK (AP)—Primetime newcomer Jay Leno says he would have rather stayed put at "The Tonight Show"—and if NBC offered him that job again, he'd take it.

In an interview with Broadcasting & Cable magazine published online Monday, Leno hastily added that such a decision isn't his to make.

Conan O'Brien, his successor as "Tonight" host after 17 years, is "doing fine," Leno said.

"Conan is in the same position I was in when I took over. It takes a while. Some will like it; some will leave forever and not come back."

Leno said he doesn't think the recent controversy surrounding his former late-night rival David Letterman "will have a big effect at all."

Referring to Letterman's acknowledged sexual affairs with female members of his staff, Leno said, "If it were me, it would kill me. I'm the guy who's been married 29 years. But Dave has never pretended to be Mr. Moral America, he's never set himself up that way. He's not a hypocrite."

"The Jay Leno Show" began on NBC in September, airing Monday through Friday at 10 p.m. Eastern, where it has displaced several prime-time scripted dramas. For that, and for his less-than-stellar ratings thus far, Leno has taken heat within the TV industry as well as from critics.

It's just part of the battle, said Leno, who insisted he enjoys it.

"I get a certain amount of satisfaction from pounding my head against the wall," he said. "I'm not having a bad time at 10 o'clock now. I look at this as a job, and now I'm faced with a challenge, and it's a challenge I find difficult but interesting."

Mel Gibson and his girlfriend welcome a baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson and his girlfriend are welcoming the birth of the couple's first child—making the Oscar-winner a father for the eighth time.

Gibson's publicist Alan Nierob said Monday that Oksana Grigorieva gave birth to a baby girl named Lucia on Friday at a hospital in Los Angeles.

No further details were available.

The 53-year-old "Braveheart" star has seven children with his ex-wife, Robyn. She cited irreconcilable differences in her April divorce petition to end their marriage of 28 years.

Grigorieva is a 39-year-old Russian musician. She and Gibson met while filming "Edge of Reason." Gibson is currently filming "The Beaver," directed by Jodie Foster.

AP

In this April 28, 2009 file photo, Oksana Grigorieva and Mel Gibson arrive to the "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" screening on, in Los Angeles.

Elton John recovering in hospital from flu, e-coli

LONDON (AP)—Elton John has been hospitalized after suffering from a case of E. coli bacterial infection and the flu, his spokesman said Monday.

Gary Farrow said the pop star hopes to be released soon but has been forced to cancel concerts in England, Ireland and the United States.

John intends to rejoin the "Face2Face" tour later in the month when he and Billy Joel play concerts in northern California.

Farrow said 62-year-old John is suffering from a "bad case of the flu and a minor case of E. coli."

In a May 26, 2009 photo Elton John arrives at a news conference at Starz animation studio in Toronto.

AP

His Web site says he was advised by his doctor to postpone dates in Seattle and Portland.

The Daily Mail's Web site quoted John's partner, David Furnish, as saying "He's OK—he's fine," after leaving a London hospital.

Farrow says the singer has rescheduled previously canceled dates during the European leg of his world tour.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

ABC to air Rihanna interviews on assault

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The first interview with Rihanna about Chris Brown's assault on her is airing this week on ABC. The network says the pop star's one-on-one with Diane Sawyer will air Thursday and Friday on "Good Morning America" and Friday evening on the news magazine "20/20." Brown's attack on then-girlfriend Rihanna occurred in February. He was sentenced in August to five years' probation, six months of community labor and a year of domestic violence counseling after he pleaded guilty to felony assault. Rihanna's ABC interview coincides with the debut of her new single, "Russian Roulette," from her upcoming album, "Rated R." It's her first CD since 2007's multiplatinum "Good Girl Gone Bad."

TNT picks up NBC's axed police drama 'Southland'

NEW YORK (AP)—Cable network TNT says it has rescued the shot-down NBC cop drama "Southland" and will bring it back in the new year. Beginning Jan. 12, TNT will broadcast all six episodes that were shot by NBC for its aborted second season, as well as the seven episodes from the first season. Produced by John Wells of "ER" fame, "Southland" won good reviews but not-so-good ratings when it premiered last spring on NBC. It was renewed for this fall, but NBC canceled it before its October return. Set in Los Angeles, the gritty drama stars Ben McKenzie, Regina King and Tom Everett Scott.

Man wrapped up in girlfriend ignores his visiting grandpa

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were visiting our children and grandson, "Rhett," age 24. Rhett is a college student who lives at home. He had his girlfriend, "Peggy," who lives in another town, at the house for the weekend.

Rhett and Peggy retired to his room early in the evening. When we saw them at breakfast, they were, basically, uncommunicative. Shortly after, they went to the backyard and immediately climbed into the hammock, where they lay like tightly wound dishrags for the next two hours until it was time for us to leave. Our son and his wife did not awaken them to say goodbye, so we concluded that they had been exhausted by the previous night's activities.

Is this normal behavior in today's world? We realize that we may be "old fogeys" by current standards, but isn't there any line drawn anymore? My son and his wife acted like this was all perfectly fine.

INVISIBLE GRANDPA IN ARKANSAS

DEAR GRANDPA: Whether Rhett's behavior—and his parents' tolerance of it—is "fine" in today's world depends upon the standards in that household. However, there are "family manners" and "company manners." From your description of the goings-on during your visit, and that no effort was made to spend any quality time with you, I'd say your grandson's behavior was just plain rude.

That said, Rhett was not entirely to blame. Some fault lies with your son and his wife for tolerating your being ignored and not insisting that you be treated with more courtesy and respect.

DEAR ABBY: My brother, "Jeff," has not communicated with any of the family—parents or siblings— for two years. Nobody knows why. We grew up a close-knit family with lots of love and affection.

About six years ago, Jeff moved with his wife and children to a different state. During the first few years, he stayed in touch via phone calls and e-mails, but suddenly all communication ceased. We know where he lives and have tried contacting him through letters, phone calls and e-mails, but he will not respond. Our parents are devastated and none of us knows what to do.

We have so many questions: Is Jeff hiding something? Is he ill? How are the children? What do we do, Abby? Please help.

FAMILY IN PAIN

DEAR IN PAIN: Because you have tried everything else, only one thing is left. If at all possible, your parents and the sibling who was closest to Jeff should schedule a visit to the city in which he now resides and pay him a call.

DEAR ABBY: I married a man who owns a duplex with his mother. When the taxes come due there are two sets—one for each side. The house is not habitable. It needs a lot of work to get it ready.

My mother-in-law thinks her son should pay the taxes on both sides, and also pay to fix up the place. Now that he has a wife, his mother thinks I should help him pay for the house and the taxes. But the deed is "survivorship" with him and his mother. Why should I pay to get it fixed up when his mom makes it clear that if something happens to her son, the house is hers and hers alone?

TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TAKEN FOR GRANTED: Beats me! I wouldn't do it, and neither should you.

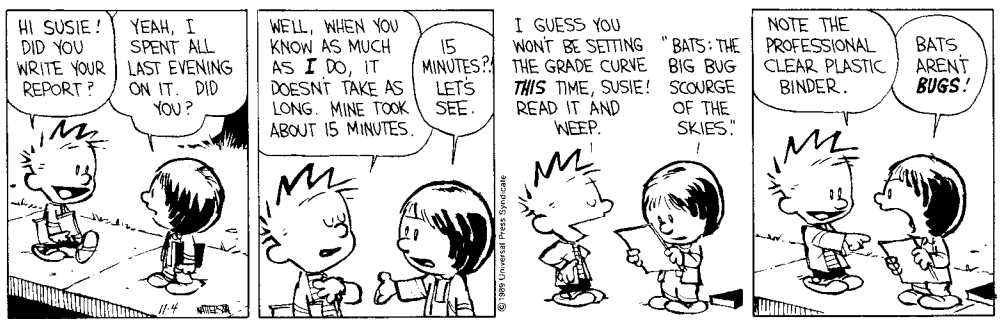
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI SUSIE! DID YOU WRITE YOUR REPORT?
YEAH, I SPENT ALL LAST EVENING ON IT. DID YOU?
WELL, WHEN YOU KNOW AS MUCH AS I DO, IT DOESN'T TAKE AS LONG. MINE TOOK ABOUT 15 MINUTES.
15 MINUTES?! LET'S SEE.
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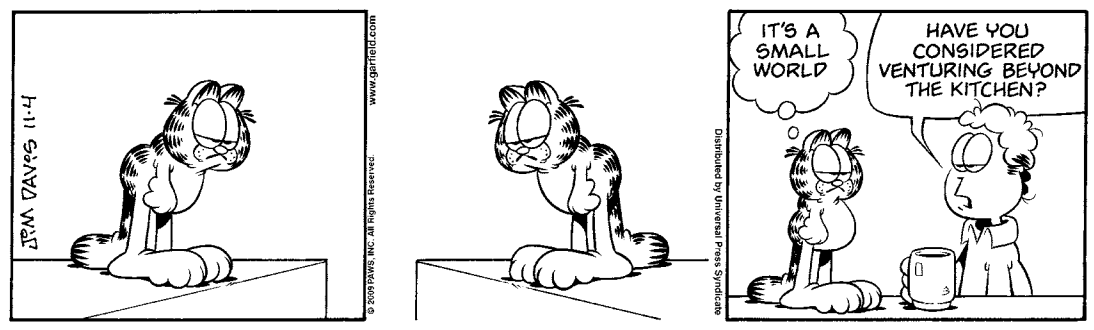
By Jim Davis


JIM DAVIS 11-4
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M GONNA TALK TO MY NEW BOSS TODAY. TELL HIM TO PULL BACK A LITTLE BIT.
TYRANTS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER PEOPLE.
HE'S NOT A TYRANT. HE'S JUST TRYING TOO HARD.
HE'S LUCKY I DON'T GO DOWN THERE AND TEACH HIM A LESSON. AND THAT LESSON...
HE'S A FORMER COLLEGE WRESTLER.
...WOULD BE TO RESOLVE DISPUTES PEACEFULLY.
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11-4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WOW! LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL FALL LEAF!
I THINK I'LL PRESS IT AND THEN PASTE IT ON A SHEET OF CONSTRUCTION PAPER WITH SOME GLITTER GLUE.
AND PLACE IT NEXT TO THAT DEAD THING I WAS ROLLING AROUND ON YESTERDAY!
SEE? THIS IS WHY DOGS SHOULDN'T SCRAPBOOK!
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11-4

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

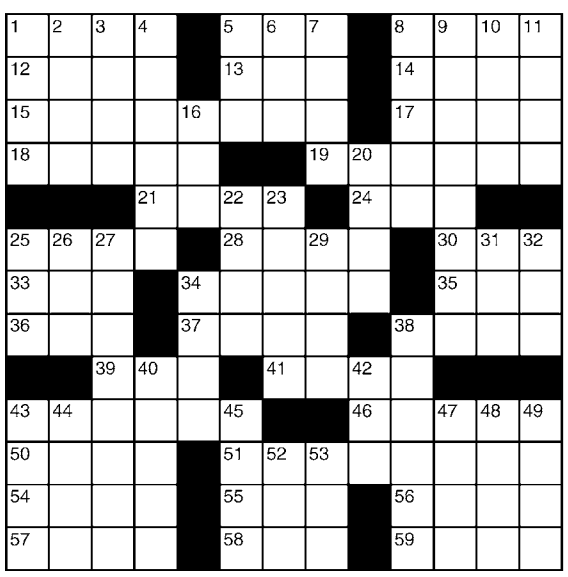
ACROSS
1 Foolish sort
5 Satchel
8 "Without delay" acronym
12 A Katzenjammer kid
13 Commotion
14 NASA's "Forget it"
15 "Oh, really?"
17 PC picture
18 Mar
19 Harm
21 Peruse
24 Toothpaste type
25 Bit of banter
28 Ark builder
30 Caustic solution
33 Past
34 Line dance?
35 Wet wriggler
36 Feathery accessory
37 "— Karenina"
38 Leading man?
39 Siesta
41 Geological periods
43 Acts the moocher
46 Shelter from the sun
50 Astrologer's bear
51 Barely mediocre
54 Laugh-a-minute
55 St.
56 Passenger Parks
57 Facility
58 Skillet
59 Spuds' buds

DOWN
1 Anything but that
2 Nasty stinger
3 Grooving on
4 Unisex garb
5 Cudgel
6 Billboards
7 Suitable
8 Japanese cartooning style
9 Commonly named
10 Highly excited
11 Southern bread
16 Hearty brew
20 Mideast VIP
22 Shortly
23 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
25 Poke
26 "I" strain
27 Unspecified people
29 Culture medium
31 Verily
32 46-Across provider
34 Feature of a Batsuit
38 Off the boat
40 Marble type
42 Donkey
43 Remedy
44 Met melody
45 Break suddenly
47 "Hi, sailor"
48 Teaspoonful, at times
49 Greek vowels
52 Eggs
53 X rating?

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	E	A	■	P	A	M	■	G	E	N	E
M	E	R	V	■	O	V	A	■	A	V	I	D
S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	■	L	I	N	G
■	■	■	T	O	O	■	G	A	L	L	E	Y
S	A	L	A	D	■	I	A	G	O	■	■	■
P	I	E	R	■	S	T	R	A	P	P	E	D
A	N	A	■	V	I	C	E	S	■	E	R	E
S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	■	W	A	N	E
■	■	■	A	C	H	Y	■	B	I	K	E	R
S	P	I	R	I	T	■	B	O	G	■	■	■
T	O	D	O	■	S	T	R	A	W	H	A	T
A	N	O	N	■	E	R	A	■	A	O	N	E
G	E	L	S	■	E	Y	E	■	M	E	T	E

Yesterday's answer 11-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sean "Diddy" Combs, 40; Matthew McConaughey, 40; Ralph Macchio, 48; Markie Post, 59

Happy Birthday: You have to live and act in the moment this year. Strive for perfection and originality and don't be afraid to be different. You will be at your best when representing something you believe in, so don't bother with anything that doesn't move you. Focus, protect and persevere. Your numbers are 8, 12, 25, 33, 36, 41, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put your heart and soul into the development of something you really want to pursue. You will be able to maneuver your position to fit your own needs if you have a sound plan and the right people involved. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You have to be upfront about what you want and the way you see things unfolding if you want the same in return. Once you have laid your cards on the table, it will be much easier to strike a deal. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will miss out if you don't get involved in something that requires extra hours or taking on work that will prove how valuable you are. This is the perfect time to impress someone personally or professionally with your versatility. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for answers in unusual places. It will give you a greater sense of what you can do and how far you can go. Showing others your diversity will open all sorts of options that have been out of reach in the past. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Work on personal aspects of your life and you will ease some of the stress you've been feeling. A partnership opportunity will open up through a mutual friend or someone you have partnered with in the past. Don't let jealousy cause you to miss out. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may be surprised by a colleague's underhandedness. Protect your position by going the extra mile to do a stellar job. Your stability will depend on the precision and detail you include in your work and everyday chores. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can accomplish whatever you set out to do. Now is the time to travel, share your ideas and launch something that excites you. Plan a little romance for late in the day. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Offer your talent and services to an organization you are dedicated to help. You will be introduced to someone who will help you get some of your work published or recognized in the future. Nurture all your relationships now. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will recognize an opportunity that will influence your life personally and professionally. Someone you know well will challenge you for jumping in quickly but, this time, you have to follow your heart and fulfill your own needs. Recognition is heading your way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Rely on your past experience to help you see clearly now. An old partner will help you revisit some of the things you once strived for. A fresh start will breathe new life into an old plan. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have plenty going for you but first you must let go of old grudges and stop blaming everyone (including yourself), for what's happened in the past. Living in the present and looking toward the future will bring positive results. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful how you conduct yourself. Someone will be watching every move you make. The more you stick to the rules, the better you will do and the more praise you will get. Work hard, play hard and be honest. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and competitive. You know what you want and how to get it. You are creative, broadminded and intriguing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	5	7						
3			4			1		
1		4		9		5	8	
	3			8				
		1	9		6	2		
				5			6	
		5		7		3		9
	1				9			5
4						8	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	7	6	9	5	4	1	2
4	2	6	1	3	7	8	5	9
9	5	1	4	2	8	3	7	6
2	1	8	9	6	4	7	3	5
6	9	5	8	7	3	1	2	4
7	4	3	2	5	1	6	9	8
5	3	2	7	4	6	9	8	1
1	6	9	3	8	2	5	4	7
8	7	4	5	1	9	2	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FREE STUFF ON YOUR BIRTHDAY **Solution: 8 letters**

T	N	A	R	U	A	T	S	E	R	S	D	R	A	C
R	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	V	N	I	N	G	E	O
I	S	E	P	R	E	T	S	I	G	E	R	L	R	M
B	N	T	M	S	S	O	D	A	R	R	E	A	U	P
U	O	E	N	N	R	I	N	G	E	B	V	S	T	L
T	I	T	P	U	I	A	A	E	R	T	A	S	X	E
E	T	Ⓟ	T	O	O	A	B	A	O	O	T	E	I	M
S	P	Ⓘ	E	L	E	C	T	A	D	D	U	S	M	E
S	E	Ⓥ	C	T	E	I	S	R	D	P	N	P	R	N
E	C	R	A	K	O	T	I	I	E	V	A	U	U	T
C	E	E	V	N	E	N	R	E	D	T	A	R	O	A
I	R	N	P	I	K	T	W	I	N	E	N	N	T	R
T	T	O	H	S	C	T	C	O	F	F	E	E	C	Y
O	H	E	T	I	L	E	F	A	V	O	R	I	T	E
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	F	I	T	N	E	D	I	S

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Advance, Bars, Beer, Bottle, Cards, Celebration, Coffee, Complementary, Discounts, Drinks, Elite, Entertainment, Favorite, Glasses, Group, Hop, Identification, Invitation, Mixture, Note, Notice, Open, Party, Reception, Register, Restaurant, Ring, Round, Service, Shot, Soda, Tavern, Ticket, Toast, Tour, Treat, Tribute, VIP, Wine, Wristband

Yesterday's Answer: Sweepstakes

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Name : Guangsheng Jin
Date of Birth : May 15, 1969
Passport No. : G11076349
Contact No. : 235-0515

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Liu Ju
Date of Birth : Nov. 29, 1958
Passport No. : G00416384
Contact No. : 285-8321

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Name : Wu Jie
Date of Birth : Feb. 15, 1951
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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CORAZON D. AGUINALDO -LUCERO, Petitioner, vs. ALFREDO D. LUCERO Respondent.) Civil Action No. 09-0599) SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE –NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish too make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Limwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 16th day of October, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SPINNAKER CCCCCCC

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Utley, Lee help Phils stave off Series elimination

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—By the ninth inning, Phillies fans were preparing for the worst.

The New York Yankees were at it again, chipping away at a dwindling lead and threatening to take away the Phils' World Series title right there at Citizens Bank Park.

Desperate to hang on, somehow Chase Utley and the Phillies did. Derek Jeter grounded into a double play, Mark Teixeira struck out, and Philadelphia staved off the Yankees and elimination with an 8-6 win in Game 5 on Monday night.

Now comes the hard part: winning twice at Yankee Stadium.

Game 6 will be played Wednesday night, with New York's Andy Pettite going on short rest against Pedro Martinez, not exactly a beloved figure in the Bronx.

Utley hit two home runs to raise his Series total to a record-tying five, Cliff Lee won again and Philadelphia cut its deficit to 3-2.

"We didn't have a choice. It was either go home and watch football and college basketball or extend the season," Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins said.

Ahead 8-2, the Phillies watched New York score three times in the eighth inning and put its first two batters on in the ninth. Jeter's grounder drove in a run, but the fans on their feet couldn't exhale until Teixeira struck out as the tying run.

Whew!

Utley hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the first inning off A.J. Burnett and added a solo shot in the seventh to join Reggie Jackson as the only players to hit five home runs in a single World Series.

"Obviously it's great company," Utley said. "It's pretty surreal."

Philadelphia replicated its winning formula from the opener, when Utley hit two solo homers and Lee pitched a six-hitter. Raul Ibanez set off fireworks from the Liberty Bell one last time, adding a second solo shot in the seventh off Phil Coke that made it 8-2.

In a matchup of starters from Arkansas, Lee allowed five runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings. He is 4-0 with a 1.56 ERA in five postseason starts.

"I don't think my command was as good as it has been," Lee said. "I had to battle a little bit."

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Chase Utley hits a solo home run off New York Yankees relief pitcher Phil Coke as New York Yankees catcher Jorge Posada looks on in the seventh inning of Game 5 of the Major League Baseball World Series Monday, Nov. 2, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Alex Rodriguez had put the Yankees ahead with an RBI double in the first and hit a two-run double in the eighth off Lee. He scored on Robinson Cano's sacrifice fly against Chan Ho Park to cut the deficit to 8-5.

Jorge Posada clanked a double against the right-field wall leading off the ninth against Ryan Madson, and Hideki Matsui singled him to third.

Closer Brad Lidge was nowhere to be seen one night after his ninth-inning meltdown.

"I kind of wanted to just give Lidge a break tonight if I could," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said.

Madson fell behind Jeter 2-1, then induced a 6-4-3 double play as Posada scored. After Johnny Damon singled, Teixeira struck out.

"We definitely have the momentum," said Madson, who got the save. "I didn't care if they scored one or two, as long as they didn't score three."

The Yankees, who have won the Series all eight previous times they took a 3-1 lead, have two more tries to close out title No. 27.

"If we would have pitched today, we probably would have won," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "That's the bottom line."

Pitching on short rest didn't work well for Burnett, who had been 4-0 previously in his career on three days' off and kept the Phillies off balance in Game 2. He kept falling behind batters and allowed six runs, four hits and four walks in two-plus innings, his shortest start since his first outing in 2007.

It marked the first time in 14 postseason games this year that a Yankees starter failed to pitch at least six innings.

"You just feel like you let a bunch of guys down," Burnett said. "It's the worst feeling in the world to have the chance to do something special and fail like that. But what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Philadelphia ended baseball's record streak of five straight Series that ended in sweeps or five games, ensuring at least one more telecast in a matchup between big-market teams that has revived baseball's ratings. The Phillies still face a tall task: The Yankees lost three in a row just twice after the All-Star break and dropped consecutive home games only once after mid-June.

Just six of 43 teams facing 3-1 Series deficits have gone on to win the title, including five in a row since Kansas City rallied past St. Louis in 1985.

But Pettitte and CC Sabathia, the Yankees' Game 7 starter, will be pitching on short rest—Pettitte for the first time this year and Sabathia for the third time in the postseason.

If the Phillies come back to become the first NL team to win consecutive Series titles since the 1975-76 Cincinnati Reds, Girardi will be widely second-guessed for his pitching decisions. No Series champion has gone the entire postseason with just three starters since the 1991 Minnesota Twins—when there were just two rounds of playoffs.

New York will be without center fielder Melky Cabrera for the rest of the Series. Cabrera strained his left hamstring in Game 4 and was replaced on the roster by backup infielder Ramiro Pena as Brett Gardner took over in center field.

Philadelphia received a scare when center fielder Shane Victorino was hit with a pitch while squaring to bunt in the first. X-rays were negative but the finger swelled and he left after seven innings.

"Hitting was difficult. I couldn't get my grip," Victorino said. "A.J. apologized when I got to first, so it wasn't retaliation, I can tell you that. Everything's fine. I definitely feel great."

While the Phillies have outhomered the Yankees 10-5 in the Series, Ryan Howard is slumping. He went 0 for 2 with two walks and two strikeouts and is hitting .158 (3 for 19) with 12 strikeouts, tying the Series record set by Kansas City's Willie Wilson in 1980.

Burnett a bust in Game 5, Yankees thumped by Phils

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A.J. Burnett started walking briskly off the mound before manager Joe Girardi even got there. The erratic right-hander already was finished—and he knew it.

With a chance to pitch the New York Yankees to their first World Series championship in nine years, Burnett was a major bust in Game 5 on Monday night. He gave up a three-run homer before retiring a hitter and was chased with nobody out in the third inning.

"You just feel like you let a bunch of guys down," Burnett said. "It's the worst feeling in the world to have the chance to do something special and fail like that."

After battering Burnett, the Philadelphia Phillies held on for an 8-6 victory that cut their deficit to 3-2 and sent the Series back to New York for Game 6 on Wednesday night.

Opportunity wasted.

"It was nobody else's fault but mine out there tonight," Burnett said. "It was embarrassing. With the importance of a game like that, you've got to figure out a way to throw strikes."

Burnett tossed seven stellar innings in Game 2, beating Pedro Martinez and the power-hitting Phillies 3-1 at home to tie the Series. It was an encouraging outing under immense pressure, and Burnett's first win in four postseason starts—all this year.

New York went back to him on three days' rest in Game 5, which seemed a good idea. Burnett entered 4-0 with a 2.33 ERA in four career starts on short rest, though he hadn't tried it this season. He said Sunday he felt good and was excited about pitching against his buddy from back home in Arkansas, Phillies ace Cliff Lee.

The matchup was one-sided.

Burnett never looked comfortable on the mound, taking deep breaths, tucking in his jersey and digging mud out of his spikes. He couldn't get on top of his fastball and lacked the nasty curve that overpowered Philadelphia last week.

"If we would have pitched today, we probably would have won," Girardi said. "A.J. struggled today. He felt good, he just struggled."

In Game 2, Burnett threw first-pitch strikes to his first 11 batters and 22 of 26 overall. This time, the aggressive Phillies attacked him early in the count.

"They're big league hitters over there. They watch film and they make adjustments," he said.

Burnett got ahead of leadoff man Jimmy Rollins 1-2 in the first inning, then gave up a single. Shane Victorino squared to bunt and was hit in the right hand with a 95 mph fastball. Chase Utley drove the next pitch over the right-field fence for a 3-1 Phillies lead.

In the third, Burnett walked Utley and Ryan Howard. When Jayson Werth and Raul Ibanez followed with RBI singles, Burnett was done.

Back in the dugout, his head hung low and his eyes narrowed as he watched his teammates try to fight back.

"I've got to take it hard. It's me," Burnett said. "These guys played the game they played, put up runs that usually win ballgames."

It was the first time in 14 games this postseason that a Yankees starter failed to last six innings—and the shortest outing by a World Series starter since Houston's Roger Clemens left Game 1 against the Chicago White Sox in 2005 after two innings because of a strained hamstring.

Girardi and the Yankees have learned at least one thing about Burnett during his first year in New York: He's not a guy you can count on to close out a postseason series.

Burnett also had an opportunity to wrap up the AL championship series on the road in Game 5 against Los Angeles, but he yielded four runs in the first. When his teammates rallied to take a seventh-inning lead, he failed to put away the Angels.

Andy Pettitte won Game 6 to clinch that Series. He's expected to get the ball again Wednesday night, this time on three days' rest.

"We're going to check with Andy tomorrow when we work out," Girardi said. "If Andy physically feels good, he's going to go on Wednesday."

This outing certainly wasn't what the Yankees were looking for when they signed Burnett to an $82.5 million, five-year contract as a free agent in the offseason.

In perhaps the biggest game of his life, he had his shortest start since going two innings on April 4, 2007, with Toronto at Detroit.

"He just didn't have his stuff," teammate Johnny Damon said.

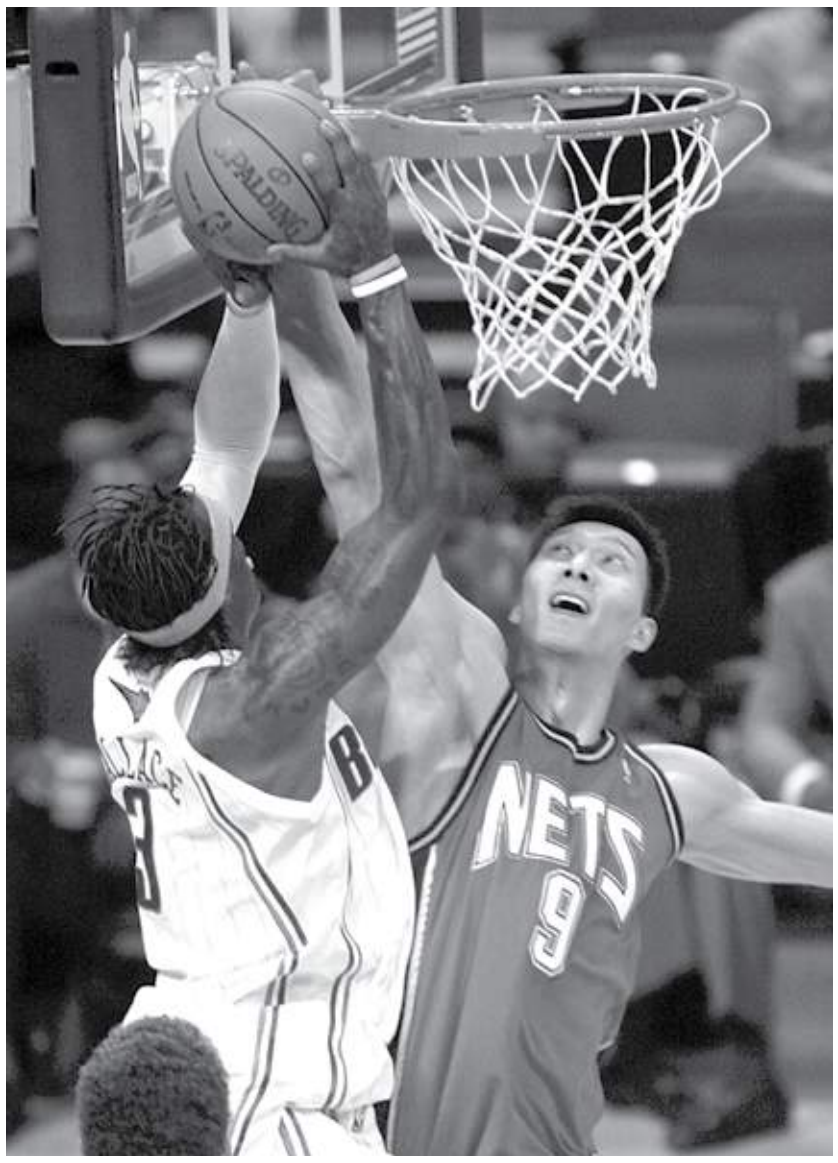
Wallace, Bobcats rally past struggling Nets, 79-68

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Gerald Wallace had 24 points and 20 rebounds and the Charlotte Bobcats held the New Jersey Nets without a point for more than 10 minutes during a 79-68 victory on Monday.

The Nets' ineptitude allowed Charlotte to go on a 24-0 run bridging the third and fourth quarters in the longest scoring drought in the NBA in nearly four years. D.J. Augustin added 21 points for the Bobcats.

In one brutal stretch, the Nets lost Yi Jianlian to a sprained right knee and went nearly 11 1/2 minutes without a field goal. The Nets went 0-for-11 from the field with nine turnovers before Chris Douglas-Roberts' three-point play.

Douglas-Roberts had 20 points and Brook Lopez added 18.



AP

Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Wallace, left, has his shot blocked by New Jersey Nets' Yi Jianlian (9), from China, during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 in Charlotte, N.C.

Knicks 117, Hornets 111

At New York, David Lee scored a season-high 28 points as New York earned its first victory of the season.

Chris Duhon finished with 18 points and nine assists for the Knicks, who lost three straight and were off to their worst start since dropping their first five games in 2005-06. But they played from ahead this time after facing huge deficits in their previous games, then pulled away midway through the fourth quarter.

Chris Paul had season highs of 32 points and 13 assists for the Hornets, who were coming off a loss in Boston on Sunday night. Emeka Okafor added 24 points, his best game with New Orleans, and grabbed 10 rebounds. David West scored 21 points.

Rockets 113, Jazz 96

At Salt Lake City, rookie Chase Budinger scored a career-high 17 points and was one of eight Houston players to score in double figures.

The Rockets pulled away with a 13-0 run early in the fourth quarter.

Aaron Brooks had 19 points and nine assists and Luis Scola added 14 points and 15 rebounds for the Rockets, who made eight of their first 12 shots in the fourth quarter to blow open a three-point game.

Deron Williams had 18 points and eight assists and Andrei Kirilenko added 18 points and seven rebounds for the Jazz.

Kings 127, Grizzlies 116, OT

At Sacramento, Kevin Martin scored 48 points and Beno Udrih hit a game-tying layup in the closing seconds of regulation to lift Sacramento in overtime in its home opener.

After starting the season with three straight losses on the road, the Kings came through late to delight a rare sellout crowd in Sacramento. It was a back-and-forth game down the stretch with both teams delivering big shots on a night little defense was played.

The two biggest for the Kings were Udrih's driving layup with 1.6 seconds left in regulation and Martin's seventh 3-pointer that gave Sacramento a 116-112 lead with 1:45 remaining in overtime.

Zach Randolph had 30 points and 16 rebounds before fouling out in overtime, Rudy Gay added 21 points and 12 rebounds and O.J. Mayo scored 22 for the Grizzlies.

Clippers 93, Timberwolves 90

At Los Angeles, Chris Kaman had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Eric Gordon hit the go-ahead layup with 1:32 to play as Los Angeles surged in the fourth quarter to its first victory of the season.

Gordon scored 17 points and Baron Davis had 13 points and eight assists for the Clippers, who ended a three-game home losing streak to the Timberwolves.

Rasual Butler hit four free throws in the final 19 seconds for Los Angeles, and Corey Brewer badly missed a well-guarded 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

Al Jefferson scored 24 points and Brewer had 14 for Minnesota.

Saints stay perfect with 35-27 win over Falcons

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Saints are still perfect, despite an imperfect performance, and now need one more win to set the record for best start in franchise history.

Drew Brees had 308 yards passing, Pierre Thomas scored two touchdowns and Jabari Greer returned an interception for a score to help the Saints improve to 7-0 with a 35-27 victory over the Atlanta Falcons on Monday night. Only the 1991 Saints began a season with as many wins and no Saints team has started 8-0.

"We did a lot of things well and yet we did a lot of things that made it close at the end," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "I'm excited to win though. I'm excited to win this game and get to 7-0. It was an important game against a division team and I'm proud of our players. They fought."

Greer's touchdown was the Saints' fifth score on an interception this season, tying a single-season franchise mark set in 1998. Tracy Porter also had an interception on the Saints 1-yard line on a pass tipped by Jonathan Vilma in the fourth quarter, preserving a 28-24 lead after Thomas' fumble had given Atlanta the ball on the Saints 35.

Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan was intercepted three times, the third straight game he'd been intercepted at least twice.

Still, the Falcons stayed in it until the end, getting a 40-yard field goal from Jason Elam with 28 seconds left, then recovering an onside kick. Ryan only had time for a desperation heave in the final seconds, and Darren Sharper turned it into his seventh interception of the season.

Sharper's interception also was the Saints' 16th overall this season, surpassing New Orleans' total of 15 from 2008. The Saints have at least one interception in every game this season.

"The way we've been able to (get turnovers) and score is a big reason we're where we're at right now," Payton said.

Brees hit Marques Colston for an 18-yard score. Thomas scored on a 22-yard run in the first quarter and a 1-yard catch out of the backfield with 3:03 to go, flipping backward over a tackler and into the end zone. That touchdown made it 35-24 and ignited the entire Superdome into chants of "Who dat say they gonna' beat them Saints?"

"Pierre did a good job of getting through that last defender," Payton said. "It was following the series where he fumbled and it was good to see him respond."

Reggie Bush added a 1-yard touchdown late in the first half, giving the Saints a lead they would not relinquish.

Roddy White beat Greer on a 68-yard scoring pass from Ryan early in the third quarter, and the Falcons pulled to 28-24 on Elam's 25-yard field goal with 11:33 to go in the game.

That field goal, however, came only after Payton sprinted down the sideline and launched his red flag about 20 yards, just in time to challenge a game-tying touchdown catch by White in the back of the end zone. Replays showed White allowed the ball to touch the turf as he bobbled the catch.

The loss, Atlanta's second straight, dropped the Falcons (4-3) three games behind the Saints in the NFC South. It marked the first time the Falcons had lost two straight under second-year coach Mike Smith. It also squandered Michael Turner's best game of the season. He had 151 yards rushing, including a 13-yard touchdown.

The Falcons' defense also produced a score. Thomas DeCoud's jarring sack on a delayed blitz up the middle dislodged the ball from Brees and Kroy Biermann returned it from the 4-yard line, giving Atlanta a 14-7 lead late in the first quarter.

Brees also was intercepted on a spectacular leaping grab by Brent Grimes.

Brees never got rattled through, completing 15 of his first 17 passes and leading three scoring drives in the first half. Two of his top targets were Colston, who finished with 85 yards on six catches, and tight end Jeremy Shockey, who caught five passes for 72 yards.

Atlanta had two first-half drives stall on Elam's missed field goal attempts from 34 and 51 yards.

A little more than three years ago, the Falcons were the visitors when the Saints returned to the newly reopened Louisiana Superdome for the first time since Hurricane Katrina. That Monday night had a storybook start for the Saints, who scored on a blocked punt on Atlanta's opening drive.

With those vivid memories still fresh, the Superdome crowd was cheering wildly as the Saints defense took the field after the opening kickoff.

This time, however, Ryan calmly led the Falcons 77 yards for a score, with Turner gaining 38 of those yards, including his lone TD.

New Orleans answered when Thomas broke former LSU star Chevis Jackson's tackle near the line of scrimmage, then cut left away from John Abraham to tie it at 7.

Cleveland Browns, GM Kokinis part ways

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—The Cleveland Browns invisible general manager has disappeared.

George Kokinis, the hand-picked GM of first-year coach Eric Mangini who was rarely seen or heard in Cleveland, left the team Monday under unexplained circumstances after less than one year on the job.

After reports surfaced that Kokinis was fired, the team issued an awkwardly worded statement saying Kokinis "is no longer actively involved with the organization." The Browns also denied reports that Kokinis was escorted from team headquarters.

Kokinis' apparent ouster came one day after Browns owner Randy Lerner said he wanted to hire a "strong, credible, serious" football adviser to help run his struggling 1-7 team. Kokinis was hired on Jan. 23, two weeks after the Browns named Mangini as their fourth coach since 1999.

But the Mangini-Kokinis team has been broken up, forcing Lerner to look quickly for help. One possibility could be Ernie Accorsi, who was Cleveland's GM from 1985-92, when the Browns went to three AFC title games with Bernie Kosar at quarterback.

Kosar was recently brought in by Lerner to serve in an unspecified consulting role. Accorsi could take over the vacant GM position and serve as a mentor until Kosar is ready. Accorsi was the New York Giants' GM for nine years before retiring after the 2006 season. His biggest move was a trade with San Diego for quarterback Eli Manning.

Mangini said he would welcome anyone who could help the Browns get better.

"If you can add quality people that can help you get better, then you do that," he said. "You're always searching for those opportunities."

The Browns said they would withhold further comment of Kokinis' situation "in the interest of protecting the parties involved."

Citing unnamed team and league sources, ESPN.com reported that Kokinis refused to resign when pressed by Lerner, who then persisted in seeking a dismissal "for cause." The report said the team's security and legal department were reviewing phone records to build its case against Kokinis.

Before coming to Cleveland, Kokinis spent 13 years with Baltimore, the past six seasons as the Ravens' director of pro personnel. He had little or no authority with the Browns as Mangini, who was fired by the New York Jets after last season, has enjoyed full control over football operations.

Kokinis' strange departure is the latest twist for the Browns, the closest thing the NFL has to a daily soap opera.

Already in Mangini's first year in Cleveland, the Browns have dealt with a lengthy list of on- and off-the-field circumstances.

Mangini was criticized for making his rookies take a 10-hour bus ride to his football camp in Connecticut and later for fining one of his players $1,701 for not paying for a $3 bottle of water during a hotel stay. There's been the ongoing quarterback saga involving Derek Anderson and Brady Quinn, the trade of wide receiver Braylon Edwards two days after he allegedly punched a friend of NBA star LeBron James, a flu outbreak that hit 12 players, cornerback Eric Wright's car accident and other situations.

And of course, there has been the losing, something the Mangini-Kokinis team was supposed to fix.

Kokinis essentially was handpicked by Mangini to be his GM. The two worked together under former Browns coach Bill Belichick in the 1990s.

RGA sets dates for four tournaments

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Refaluwasch Golfers Association will have four more tournaments before closing out the 2009 season.

The first two, the RGA November Ace Tournament and the December qualifier will be held on the same day, on Nov. 8 at the Coral Ocean Point. Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is set for 12pm. The two events are open only to the first 20 players to register.

Participants in the November Ace tournament must score better than net 68 to get this month's plum and foil Tom Tebuteb's bid to earn a ticket to the club championship.

Tebuteb won the November qualifying tournament held simultaneously with the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic on Oct. 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links. The 22-handicapper shot a net 68, built on a 43 on the front nine and a 47 on the back, to win the qualifier and move a step away from advancing to the RGA Club Championship.

The club championship will be played on Dec. 6 with the venue to be announced later. The coveted Plas M. Tagabuel trophy will be awarded to the club champion and only the 12 monthly Ace winners will vie for the award.

After the December Ace qualifier, RGA will have the December Ace tournament on Nov. 21 to complete the club championship cast.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol is reminding monthly winners to meet the requirements for the club championship. Besides winning a monthly Ace, participants must also compete in at least six RGA-sanctioned events to make it to the yearend tournament. Failure to do so will disqualify the monthly Ace for vying for the Plas M. Tagabuel trophy and will give the Ace runner-up a ticket to the club championship.

Monthly Ace winners this year include Ben Duenas, Jesse Seman, Ray Tigilau, Asterio Tawanpiy, Tars Olopai, Cui Xian Lai, Joe Saures, Sonny Flores, and Nick Sablan.

Wabol took last year's Plas M. Tagabuel trophy, ending his seven-year drought in the RGA Cup. The veteran golfer shot a net 66 to defeat nine other monthly Ace winners last year. It was Wabol's fourth RGA Cup and he is hoping to add one more this year.

For more information about RGA's remaining tournaments, contact club president Jordon Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129.

Chamolinian softball league lures 19 teams

The Chamolinian Softball Association has attracted 19 teams for the 2009 Budweiser Slowpitch Softball League, which will kick off on Nov. 16 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said so far they have lured 17 teams for the men's division and two for the women's category. However, only the first 15 teams (men's division) to pay the $400 entrance fee will be allowed to compete in CSA's initial offering this season. The women's division is open to five squads.

Registration fee is due on Nov. 9 and a meeting is set on the same day at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Dela Cruz is also reminding teams to submit completed waiver forms and signed ground rules.

The Chamolinian league will implement a round robin format for the regular season in the men's division with the Top 10 teams marching to the double-elimination playoffs. The women's division will have a three-round robin format with the Top 4 squads advancing to the playoff round, which will be a double-elimination affair.

Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The women's games will be played only every Wednesday at 7:30pm. Matches in the men's division every Monday and Friday will be at 6:30pm (first game) and 8:30pm (second game). There will be three games in the men's division every Wednesday. All teams are guaranteed to play once a week.

To register or for more information, contact Dela Cruz at 483-4185 or Liz Palacios at 287-8869. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

RUN-AND-GUN

From Page 28

nin' Rebels (4-3), Saints (4-3), 670 Rollers 2 (3-2), Rollers 1 (3-3), Ol'Aces (2-4), Young 670 Rollers (1-5), Hi-5 (0-6), and Celtics (0-7).

Action in the annual caging slowed down last month, as organizers had to suspend games for more than three weeks due to the participating teams' failure to comply with the league's requirements.

To make up for its long absence, the Rotary caging will play multiple games on several playing days this month, instead of the usual one-day one-game schedule.

Saints 60 – L. Reyes 26, Galarse 16, Iglesias 7, Brennan 5, Tenorio 4, Tudela 2.

Celtics 38 – Sablan 15, T. Taguchi 13, J. Villagomez 3, Nicholas 2, Kautz 2, Webb 2, Pangelinan 1.

Scoring by halves: 29-20, 60-38.

WHISPERING

From Page 28

gained the right to face the pennant champion in the quarterfinals after surviving SIS-Blue in the first round of the playoffs on Monday, 25-12, 25-22.

In the second quarterfinals game yesterday, SIS-Green, which finished the regular season in fifth place with its 8-6 record, drew first blood, following a 25-22 victory.

The GCA Eagles, who are seeded fourth in the playoffs after posting a 10-6 mark in the regular season, bounced back in the second set with a 25-14 win to force a deciding third set.

With a semis seat at stake in the third set, neither team seemed to give in. GCA went on to lead at 3-0, but SIS-Green recovered and even took an 8-6 advantage before teams switched court.

Back-to-back kills from tosser Genesis Manglona and blocker Daniel Camacho allowed GCA to tie the game at 8-all, and forced SIS-Green coach Kim Peterson to sued for time.

Another Camacho spike gave back the lead to GCA, 9-8, before Jeane Bracken answered with a dig to tie the match anew.

It was a seesaw battle from thereon with GCA moving a point away from wrapping up the match, 14-12, after a hit near the net from Camacho. Camacho then had a chance to end the game, but his serve went past the backline.

With the score at 14-13, still in favor of GCA, Angelo Jones served and the two teams had a short exchange before Rinel Chargualaf set up Jun Kitagawa for a kill on the right corner of GCA's court. The ball dropped to an empty spot on SIS-Green's right corner side, awarding the victory to the Eagles.

GCA will square off with Whispering Palms tomorrow at 4:30pm for the second finals seat. Mt. Carmel School and Marianas Baptist Academy will face off in tomorrow's opening match at 3:30pm for the first finals slot.

The MCS Knights advanced to the semis after sweeping Saipan Community School in the first round of the playoffs on Monday, 25-17, 25-22, while MBA also needed only two sets to thwart Calvary Christian Academy in the other quarterfinal game, 25-20, 25-20.

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

any opponent. In his comeback bout from a 21-month layoff, Mayweather demolished Juan Manuel Marquez on Sept. 19 in a fight that generated more than 1 million pay-per-view buys.

Mayweather's advisers claim they haven't ruled out a bout with Pacquiao, likely among the world's few fighters who could match the American's speed. But the Filipino champion has surprisingly strong opinions about why it won't happen.

"Boxing for him is like a business," Pacquiao said. "He doesn't care about the people around him watching. He doesn't care if the fight is boring, as long as the fight is finished and he gets (plenty of) money. ... I want people to be happy. You have a big responsibility as a boxer."

If Mayweather and Pacquiao don't make a deal, Sugar Shane Mosley has been outspoken in his desire to fight Mayweather, even calling him out in the ring moments after his victory over Marquez. Mosley is slated to meet welterweight champion Andre Berto in Las Vegas in January.

After arriving in California last Saturday, Pacquiao has been ramping up his training regimen this week while also battling jet lag that forced him to sleep for about 20 hours on Wednesday, wiping out a day of training. Because of tax issues, Pacquiao's camp began in Manila and moved to Hollywood later than trainer Freddie Roach usually prefers.

"I'm not worried about it, because he's always known how to block everything out," Roach said. "If anybody can do it, he can."

Pacquiao looked fairly sharp while sparring 11 rounds on Thursday at Roach's Wild Card Gym in front of a small group of spectators including Los Angeles Lakers forward Ron Artest and his father, Ron Sr., both avid boxing fans and Pacquiao admirers.

Pacquiao will spar 12 rounds on Saturday before gradually scaling back in preparation for his trip to Las Vegas to meet Cotto, the once-beaten welterweight champion whose combination of size and strength will be unlike anything the former flyweight champion has faced. Cotto is in camp in Tampa. Florida before traveling to the West Coast next week.

"I consider this one of the hardest fights in my boxing career," Pacquiao said.

HEO

From Page 28

Guinea's Abigal Tere-Apisah.

Jeong is only 15 years old, a right hander, and is ranked No. 94 in the world. He started playing tennis at the age of 11 and holds career records of 39-14 (singles) and 18-9 (doubles). This year, he has a 13-7 record in singles and 6-5 in doubles.

The Korean netter has earned 281.25 ranking points and gained his most ranking points (80) in the ITF/LTAT Junior Championships in Thailand in March this year after making it to the semifinals in the singles event.

He also advanced to the quarterfinals of the 20th Mitsubishi-Lancer International Juniors in the Philippines, won the Jeju International Junior Championships, was in the Round of 16 in Japan Open Junior Championships 2009, and made it to Round of 32 in the U.S. Open Junior Tennis Championships and the Canadian Open Junior Championships.

In doubles, Jeong was a semifinalist in the Jeju International Junior Championships, quarterfinalist in the ITF/LTAT Junior Championships, competed in Round of 16 in the Loy Yang Power Traralgon International and 20th Mitsubishi-Lancer International Juniors and advanced to Round of 32 in the 13th Sarawak Chief Minister's Cup-ITF World Junior Tennis Championships 2009 and U.S. Open Junior Tennis Championships.

Heo has career records of 5-18 (singles) and 7-18 (doubles). This year, the world No. 1,102-ranked Heo has so far posted a 4-10 slate in singles and 5-11 mark in doubles and has earned 22.5 Junior ITF ranking points.

The CNMI netter's best performance this year in the singles event was during the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships in Fiji in June when he marched to the quarterfinals. In doubles, Heo was also a quarterfinalist in the Sunsmart 18 and Under Canterbury ITF Championships in New Zealand in January. In most tournaments, Heo was either in the Round of 32 or Round 16.

Heo and company arrived in Jeju-do on Saturday and on Sunday, the three Pacific Oceania bets trained at the facility.

"Yesterday while we were training it started to hail. The weather is really cold," Race said.

Race added that the two female players of Pacific Oceania were also pitted against seeded foes. Tere-Apisah will duel New Zealand's top player and the tournament 11th seed Briar Preston, while Carruthers will challenge the No. 186 ranked Lee So-ra.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	0	1.000	_
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	1 1/2
Toronto	1	2	.333	2 1/2
New York	1	3	.250	3
New Jersey	0	4	.000	4

Southeast Division

Miami	3	0	1.000	_
Orlando	3	0	1.000	_
Atlanta	2	1	.667	1
Washington	2	1	.667	1
Charlotte	2	2	.500	1 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	2	2	.500	_
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	_
Chicago	1	2	.333	1/2
Detroit	1	2	.333	1/2
Indiana	0	2	.000	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	3	1	.750	_
Dallas	2	1	.667	1/2
San Antonio	2	1	.667	1/2
Memphis	1	3	.250	2
New Orleans	1	3	.250	2

Northwest Division

Denver	3	0	1.000	_
Oklahoma City	2	1	.667	1
Portland	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Utah	1	2	.333	2
Minnesota	1	3	.250	2 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	3	0	1.000	_
L.A. Lakers	2	1	.667	1
Sacramento	1	3	.250	2 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	4	.200	3
Golden State	0	2	.000	2 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Charlotte 79, New Jersey 68
New York 117, New Orleans 111
Houston 113, Utah 96
Sacramento 127, Memphis 116, OT
L.A. Clippers 93, Minnesota 90

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	2	0	.714	198	98
N.Y. Jets	4	4	0	.500	177	34
Miami	3	4	0	.429	176	177
Buffalo	3	5	0	.375	123	69

South

Indianapolis	7	0	0	1.000	197	91
Houston	5	3	0	.625	198	68
Jacksonville	3	4	0	.429	133	177
Tennessee	1	6	0	.143	114	211

North

Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	163	28
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	167	29
Baltimore	4	3	0	.571	199	137
Cleveland	1	7	0	.125	78	09

West

Denver	6	1	0	.857	140	96
San Diego	4	3	0	.571	185	59
Oakland	2	6	0	.250	78	01
Kansas City	1	6	0	.143	105	181

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	5	2	0	.714	203	133
Dallas	5	2	0	.714	197	136
N.Y. Giants	5	3	0	.625	212	183
Washington	2	5	0	.286	96	123

South

New Orleans	7	0	0	1.000	273	154
Atlanta	4	3	0	.571	171	149
Carolina	3	4	0	.429	128	166
Tampa Bay	0	7	0	.000	96	203

North

Minnesota	7	1	0	.875	244	174
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	187	134
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	159	150
Detroit	1	6	0	.143	113	205

West

Arizona	4	3	0	.571	157	143
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	147	140
Seattle	2	5	0	.286	135	147
St. Louis	1	7	0	.125	77	221

Yesterday's Game
New Orleans 35, Atlanta 27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	5	0
Sonics	6	1
Sixers	5	1
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	4	3
CK Saints	4	3
670 Rollers 2	3	2
Rollers 1	3	3
Ol'Aces	2	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	1	5
Hi-5	0	6
Celtics	0	7

Tsunami Saipan-ARC Swim Clinic

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shin Kimura talks to young participants in the first session of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan-American Red Cross swim lessons held on Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spooky materials adorned the gate of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, as Tsunami Saipan and American Red Cross had a Halloween-themed lesson.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Angel De Jesus teaches a participant floating techniques.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some participants in the swim lesson showed up at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in costumes and later posed for a group photo.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura gives instructions to participants.

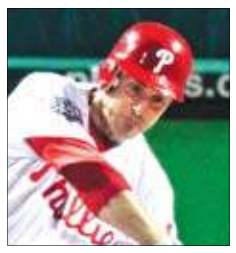
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan swimmers in their funny and scary costumes.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Three boys enjoy the kicking drill.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tamika Winkfield assists an adult participant in the clinic.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of Tsunami Saipan's developmental pool warm-up while swim clinic participants learn the basic of the sport.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan swimmers perform a warm-up drill.



Utley, Lee help Phils stave off Series elimination

The New York Yankees were at it again, chipping away at a dwindling lead and threatening to take away the Phils' World Series title right there at Citizens Bank Park. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

RGA sets dates for four tournaments

The first two, the RGA November Ace Tournament and the December qualifier will be held on the same day, on Nov. 8 at the Coral Ocean Point. Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is set for 12pm. 26

Run-and-gun game lifts Saints past Celtics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saints were without mercy against the Celtics, recording a 60-38 rout in their game in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Luis Reyes-coached Saints leaned on their dreaded running game early to pull away with the 22-point win. The victory was the fourth in seven games for the Saints, moving the team from sixth place to a share of fourth spot with the Runnin' Rebels.

The Saints' run-and-gun game had them leading the Celtics, 13-3, at the halfway mark of the first half. Sean Sablan and Tim Taguchi tried to keep up with the Saints in the remaining half of the first half and were a bit successful, as the Celtics fell behind by only nine at halftime, 29-20.

In the second half, Luizi Reyes and Leo Galarse stepped on the gas pedal anew, escaping with several fastbreak layups to give the Saints an easy win.

Reyes finished with a game-high 26 points, while Galarse chipped in 16.

Sablan paced the Celtics with 15 points, while Taguchi contributed 13, but failed to end the Celtics' losing skid.

The loss was the Celtics seventh in as many games, and they must sweep their four remaining games to keep their playoff bid alive. Only the Top 8 teams in the 12-team field will advance to the playoffs after a round-robin regular season and at this time, the Celtics are at the bottom of the team standings.

The G-Stars are leading the 18-and-under caging with their immaculate 5-0 mark. The Sonics are in second place with a 6-1 mark, followed by the Sixers (5-1), Sparks (4-2), Run-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Saints' Leo Galarse, left, drives against the Celtics' Cameron Nicholas during their game in the Rotary caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Pacquiao: Mayweather doesn't want to fight me

AP

NBA basketball player Ron Artest, right, shakes hands with fighter Manny Pacquiao during a workout in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009.

GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Manny Pacquiao believes the biggest potential fight in boxing will never happen because Floyd Mayweather Jr. wants no part of him.

Pacquiao is training in Hollywood for his meeting with Miguel Cotto on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas, but the pound-for-pound champion spared a moment on Thursday to evaluate his chances of fighting Mayweather, the unbeaten pay-per-view king. Although the matchup almost certainly would be a financial bonanza for both fighters, Pacquiao thinks fans shouldn't hold their breath.

"I don't think it's going to happen," Pacquiao said. "I'm sure he doesn't want to fight."

Mayweather has been circumspect about his plans for his next bout, saying only that he has never ducked anybody and would consider

See PACQUIAO on Page 26

Heo draws top Korean netter in ITF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Heo

CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo had a tough assignment in the opening round of the 2009 Asian/Oceania Closed Championships as he faced Korea's top junior player yesterday.

Heo, who made it to the 64-man draw of the singles event, but was unseeded, was to collide against seventh-ranked Suk-Young Jeong in the first round at the Seogwipo Tennis Courts in Dongheung-dong, Seogwipo, Jeju-do. Results in the opening-round matches were unavailable at press time.

"There are a lot of players here who I think Ji Hoon could have beaten, but he had a tough draw and was playing the No. 7 seed (Jeong). He is Korea's top junior player, but hopefully Ji Hoon will play a good game against him," Jeff Race said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Race is serving as coach to Heo and two other Pacific Oceania players, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers and Papua New

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Whispering Palms, GCA complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms School and Grace Christian Academy took separate routes to the semifinals of the junior high school division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League.

The pennant champion Whispering Palms needed only two sets in its playoff match against Seventh Day Adventist to march into the Final Four, while GCA battled Saipan International-Green in three hard fought sets before pulling off a win yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Whispering Palms had a rousing start in the opening set en route to a 25-9 victory and completed a sweep via a 25-17 triumph in the second set. SDA

See WHISPERING on Page 26

ROSELYN. MONROYO

The GCA Eagles pose for a group photo after beating SIS-Green in their playoff game in the junior high school division of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.